

THE TIMES
1785-1985
Tomorrow

Worrying de Bono
A new book takes a
sideways look at
celebrities' secrets
of success

Perchance to dream
Miles Kingston defends
dozing in public
places of entertainment
Grand old winners
Former Grand National
winners give their tips
for Aintree this weekend

Portfolio

There were two winners in The Times Portfolio competition yesterday. Mr Alan Titt of Crediton, Devon, and Mrs Heather Harris of Brighton each received £2,000, because Monday's prize was not won. Portfolio list, page 28; how to play, information service, back page.

US may act over killing of major

The United States is considering diplomatic retaliation against the Soviet Union after the killing of a US Army major by a Soviet guard in East Germany. The White House spokesman, Mr Larry Speakes, said yesterday. The Pentagon confirmed that Major Arthur Nicholson Jr was photographed in a Soviet military uniform.

South Africans charged

Fifty out of 264 arrested churchmen and civil rights activists who attempted to march on Parliament in Cape Town appeared in court and were charged with attending an illegal gathering under the International Security Act.

Shooting puzzle

Times correspondents have pieced together what is known about the incident in which two CBS men were killed in Lebanon by Israeli tank fire.

12 pages of jobs

The Times publishes today a special appointments section of 12 pages with posts for chief executives, managing directors, sales and marketing executives. The section includes overseas appointments and is introduced with an article by Mr Geoffrey Pattie, Minister for Information Technology.

Profits record

BAT Industries, the tobacco and retailing group, became Britain's most profitable non-oil company with earnings of £1.4 billion last year.

TUC deputy

Mr Ken Graham, aged 62 who has worked at the TUC since 1961, has been elected deputy general secretary.

Title chance

Barry McGuigan, of Northern Ireland, will meet Eusebio Pedroza for the Panamanian world featherweight title in London in a deal worth £1.7 million.

(SPECIAL REPORT)

A six-page Bicentenary Special Report traces 200 years of change in housing and architecture, from Georgian grandeur to suburban semi.

Leader page, 15

Letters: On directors' pay, from Mr D Soskin, and others; Thatcher gibe, from Prof J K Hyde, and others.

Books, page 13

Robert Nye reviews poetry; Woodrow Wyatt on Orwell; Tim Heald on thrillers; Nicholas Shakespeare reviews fiction of the week; Angela Gordon on Anna Ford on Men.

Features, page 12-14

Features, growing social conscience; The election veto under scrutiny; Hattersley's hidden agenda; The New Yorker in profile; Bankruptcy - turning loss into profit.

Obituary, page 16

Major-General H L Birks, Mr George London.

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Advertising on BBC to be studied by inquiry

By David Hewson
Arts Correspondent

The BBC lost its fight for a £65 colour television licence yesterday and now faces the prospect of advertising on its services within three years.

The new fee will be £58, the Home Secretary, Mr Leon Brittan, said in a Commons statement. The possibility of funding the corporation by advertising will be investigated by a departmental committee reporting in the summer of next year.

The Home Office has fixed the duration of the fee at two years in order to allow any measures to be introduced by the committee to be introduced during the third.

But if the committee suggests that the licence fee remain as the sole source of revenue, the BBC will have to continue with a £58 settlement during the third year.

The announcement provoked a muted response from the corporation which, at one time, feared a settlement so low that it would have to make extensive programme cutbacks.

It said that it was disappointed by the settlement, which represented a loss of income of £350 million over three years.

But it is thought that the chief casualties of the failure to win a £65 fee will be the planned extensions to the BBC, including a new Broadcasting House, more drama and developments in radio services.

He warned Professor Peacock that the inquiry team, yet to be selected, ought to take into account that no future Labour government would allow advertising on BBC television or radio.

The Home Secretary is said to have an open mind on the possibility of introducing advertising to the corporation. He said yesterday that it was essential to consider the impact of such a move on independent broadcasting and other media supported by advertising revenue, and also on the Exchequer.

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To assess the effects of the introduction of advertising or sponsorship on the BBC's home services, either as an alternative or a supplement to the income now received through the licence fee, including (a) the financial and other consequences for the BBC, for independent television and independent local radio, for the prospect of services of cable, independent national radio and direct broadcasting by satellite, for the press and the advertising industry and for the Exchequer; and (b) the impact on the range of quality of existing broadcasting services.

To identify a range of options for the introduction, in varying amounts and on different conditions, of advertising or sponsorship on some or all of the BBC's home services, with an assessment of the advantages and disadvantages of each option.

To consider any proposals for securing income from the consumer other than through the licence fee.

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His terms of reference are directly related to the possibility of the corporation taking advertising, much to the chagrin of the Opposition spokesman on broadcasting, Mr Gerald Kaufman.

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Thirty-five pupils from an Afrikaner high school died yesterday trapped in this bus when it plunged off a dam into a reservoir in a Johannesburg suburb. Twenty-eight children escaped.

NHS doctors may be forced to retire at 65

By Nicholas Timmins

The Government is considering forcing family doctors to retire from the National Health Service at 65 as the next stage in its plans to control doctors' numbers.

The proposal is unlikely to emerge formally before the Green Paper on family practitioner services in the summer. It would be the next logical step after the decision announced on Tuesday to restrict overseas doctors' entry to Britain.

Last year 1,343 family doctors in Great Britain aged over 65 - almost 5 per cent of the total - were still working for the NHS. Of those, 564 were over 70.

Ministers are likely to press the GPs to retire, though they could still practise privately, because the numbers have been growing more rapidly recently. Since 1979 the number of family doctors has increased by about 2 per cent a year, double the earlier figure.

As a result the average number of patients on each GP's list has fallen from 2,400 to about 2,100. Ensuring that GPs do retire would slow that trend and would be likely to improve health care in inner cities, where the number of older, single-handed doctors is higher.

Continued on back page, col 1

MacGregor system dropped in coal board shake-up

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The National Coal Board yesterday announced a reorganisation of its senior management in the wake of the year-long miners' strike. The controversial structure involving the "office of the chief executive" introduced by Mr Ian MacGregor, the NCB chairman, is being replaced.

A new executive committee structure is to be introduced which will include those area directors who kept their coalfields in production during the dispute.

The NCB official position is that the new structure has been prepared over the past few months, but it is already being interpreted within the industry as a step towards returning control of the NCB to the management which has been brought up within it and has direct personal experience of the problems that need to be faced.

Mr MacGregor and Mr Peter Walker, the Energy Secretary, are believed to have been persuaded to adopt such a set-up after seeing how certain sections of the previous management reacted favourably under the pressure of the strike.

The new management will comprise an executive committee headed by Mr MacGregor and his deputy, Mr James Cowan, and other existing executive directors such as Mr Malcolm Edwards who has responsibility for sales and marketing.

Mr Ken Moses, the present director for the North Derbyshire area, which worked during the strike, will become technical director responsible for long term planning.

Mr John Northard, director of the Western area which was prominent in the drift back to work, will become operations director responsible for the day-to-day operations of the deep-mined production.

Mr Michael Eaton, the North Yorkshire area director, who was brought in mid-way through the strike to appear as NCB official spokesman, will become personnel director designate.

The two Nottinghamshire areas which worked during the dispute are to be merged to become the spearhead of a revitalized coal industry, with Mr Albert Wheeler, the hardline director of the Scottish area, moving south to take charge.

The four Yorkshire areas will be merged into two, headed by the north by Mr Albert Tuke, the Doncaster area director. The Southern area will be headed by Mr Harold Taylor, director of the South Nottinghamshire area.

The significance of the Nottinghamshire area to the NCB is underlined by the fact that the new operations and technical directors will be based in the coalfield.

The two new technical and operations directors will be based in Eastwood Hall, Nottingham, one of the two new headquarters that the NCB has in the county. The merger of the two existing areas will free one of the buildings leading to increased speculation that ultimately most of the NCB's national operations will move to Nottingham, leaving a small London office for the chairman and the new executive committee.

Under the reorganization, Mr Jack Wood, North Nottinghamshire director, Mr George Hayes, South Yorkshire area director, and Mr Philip Weekes, South Wales area director, are to retire over the next three months.

NUM white collar section poised to join dissidents

By Colin Hughes

The white-collar section of the National Union of Mineworkers, COSA, is considering joining the breakaway dissident area of Nottinghamshire, South Derbyshire, and Leicestershire.

The move would increase significantly the strength of the moderate "mutual defence pact" formed within the miners' union since the 16,500 members of COSA will bring the combined membership of moderate opponents of the national leadership to more than 60,000, roughly one-third of the national membership.

Mr Trevor Bell, general secretary of COSA, said last night: "There is no formal agreement, and we have not become a signatory to the mutual defence pact, but we have talked and agreed that our members share common interests."

He said steps towards links between COSA and the miners' union - dissidents - were made when his section of the union received "about 14" motions recently for its annual conference in May calling for either increased autonomy within the miners' union for COSA, or complete breakaway.

"My own view is that our best interests are served within the national union, but within an NUM that proceeds along more constitutional lines than have been evident over the past twelve months," Mr Bell said.

Leaders of the three Midlands areas met two weeks ago and formally agreed to oppose collectively attacks on any or all three.

Mr Bell said that although he was opposed to a breakaway union, "Some of our membership are pushing us there already, and we cannot ignore their views altogether. It would be bucking a large swell of opinion."

He said no formal moves would be made until the COSA annual meeting in May had debated possible avenues.

Kidnappers free Briton with heart problems

From Robert Fisk
Beirut

After hours of being driven through the night, one of three kidnapped Britons in Lebanon - and among 13 recently abducted Westerners - was freed unharmed early yesterday in a Beirut shopping street not far from his home.

The release of Mr Geoffrey Nash, aged 60, a metallurgist with heart problems, has provided hope of freedom to relatives of other victims.

Mr Nash was blindfolded during his car journey through Lebanon - perhaps from the Bekaa Valley - but walked the last few yards from a gunman's car to his home.

"He was shaking. I guess from the after-effects of the kidnapping," his daughter, Nadia, said later. "They asked him questions and said they thought he was American. He told them he was British and did not work for the American Embassy... I guess they were satisfied he was not a spy."

Mr Nash received food and medicine during his two-week confinement. His wife said yesterday he had been well treated.

He travelled later to another of the family's flats in the Christian suburb of Hazmieh, and was visited by the British Ambassador, Mr David Miers. He is expected to leave Lebanon shortly.

His abductors may have freed him solely on health grounds, in which case it could still take some time to release other kidnap victims, who include Mr Brian Levick, a British businessman, and Terry Anderson, the American Associated Press bureau chief in Beirut.

Death of a news team, page 8

Sterling leaps to over \$1.23

By David Smith
Economics Correspondent

The pound jumped more than five cents against a tumbling dollar yesterday, one of the sharpest one-day rises on record. The pound's new-found strength, against all currencies, suggests that the next cut in interest rates could be just around the corner.

Sterling rose to \$1.2320 at the close in London, from \$1.1812 on Tuesday. The sterling index, which measures the pound against a basket of currencies, was up 1.9 to 77.6, and the pound gained six pennings to DM3.8568 against the German mark, its highest level for over a year.

Later in New York, the pound rose further to \$1.2360. "Everyone wants to get into sterling", one dealer said yesterday. The pound has benefited from worries over the American economy and banking system, Britain's high interest rates attracting the funds flowing out of the dollar. US trade figures out today are expected to be bad and leading indicators, due tomorrow, may show the American economy slowing further, dealers fear.

There are also worries that after the Ohio savings bank crisis, some Texan banks could be in trouble over energy loans.

The dollar dropped eight pennings against the mark to DM3.1275. The dollar's index was down 2.3 points to 147.3.

In the money markets, the three-month interbank rate fell 1/4 point to 13 1/4-13 3/4 per cent. The Government is adopting a cautious approach to lower interest rates but could be forced into action by the pound's strength, particularly against the European currencies.

Since February 26, when the pound plunged to a low of \$1.0370 against the dollar, it has risen by 20 cents.

Kenneth Fleet, page 23

Philips set to cut up to 10,000 jobs

Philips, the Dutch electronics group will cut up to 10,000 jobs in Europe this year as a result of its rationalization programme and further automation (Jan Griffiths writes). A spokesman for the company said that Britain was unlikely to escape the cuts.

Mr Gerrit Jeerof, a vice-president on the Philips management board, said: "Between 5,000 and 10,000 jobs are at stake in our manufacturing plants. However, we would hope to be taking on people for the research and development side." Philips employs about 22,500 people in Britain and half would be at risk. They are involved in the manufacture of domestic appliances and colour televisions.

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Kinnock nominates peerages to strengthen Labour

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, has nominated a merchant banker, Mr Charles Williams, as a Labour "working peer".

His name and that of Mr Bernard Donoghue, who was senior policy adviser to successive Labour Prime Ministers from 1974 to 1979, are expected to be included on a short list of life peers being prepared at 10 Downing Street for publication in the next few days.

Mr Sam Silkin, the former Labour MP for Dulwich, who was Attorney-General from 1979-83, is also expected to be on the list.

The list is a response by the Prime Minister to urgent requests from Mr Kinnock for the Labour Party's strength in the Lords to be increased. For 20 years Labour leaders have followed the precedent set by Mr Harold Wilson and refused to recommend peerages as honours or rewards for distinguished service. They have relied instead on regular creations of life peerages for those with time and energy to play an active part.

Mr Williams is a former managing director of Barling Brothers and of Henry Ansbacher, from which he resigned in January. He was

posts and been prominent in journalism. He was an assistant editor of The Times from 1981-82, before becoming head of investment policy at the stockbrokers Griesen Grant.

Both men have worked as senior advisers on economic matters to Mr Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader, and shadow Chancellor. Mr Williams has been concerned with financial matters, regulatory questions, exchange control and competition policy.

Mr Donoghue's contribution has been complementary, from his interest in macro-economics, investment and employment policy.

Mr Donoghue has held a number of senior academic

Labour parliamentary candidate for Colchester in 1964, and chairman of the Price Commission from 1977-79.

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Chequers talks to give fresh drive on rating system reforms

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Prime Minister has called senior ministers to Chequers on Sunday in a move to give fresh impetus to the latest government effort to reform the rating system.

She will chair a meeting attended by Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister of State for Local Government, other members of the environment ministerial team, Mr George Younger and Mr Nicholas Edwards, the secretaries of State for Scotland and Wales, and by Lord Whitelaw, deputy prime minister.

It has been summoned ostensibly to take stock of the inquiry into local government finance being conducted by Mr Baker, but it has clearly been given added urgency by the dispute about the effects of rates revaluation in Scotland which ministers fear is gravely damaging the Government's popularity.

And there is every sign that the Prime Minister, who once promised to abolish the domestic rating system, has again decided to take charge of the search for reform.

She is to meet a delegation from the Scottish Tory backbench committee today, led by Sir Hector Monro (Dumfries),

who will impress on her the need for action and the importance of being able to give some indication of the Government's thinking in time for the Scottish Tory conference in Perth in May. Whitehall sources were yesterday strongly playing down the likelihood of any new legislation on rates before the next election, or of any special measures to deal with the Scottish situation.

But Mrs Thatcher's impatience with the present system is well known, and in the Commons on Tuesday she appeared to be warning her ministers to drop their own favourite options in the pursuit of a workable scheme.

She said: "We hope to come to an agreed solution. If everyone sticks to their own pet schemes we will not get anywhere."

The presence of Lord Whitelaw, a Sunday's meeting is significant. He spent last week-end talking to party activists in Scotland, and on Monday told Mrs Thatcher he had encountered hostility he had encountered over revaluation.

This report is under stood to have convinced her of the necessity of a fresh push for reform.

Some councils which have delayed fixing rates want rate-

payors to go on paying to avoid accumulating large debts later in the year (our Local Government Correspondent writes).

Some rate-capped councils want to continue paying in the new financial year at the same level as in 1984/85. But such requests have no legal force, and a ratepayer is obliged to pay until he or she has received a proper rate demand based on a legal rate.

Leaders of rate capped councils met yesterday in the tactics sub-group of the Local Government Information Unit to discuss the rejection by ministers of their demand for talks about finance. The Association of London Authorities and Association of Metropolitan Authorities are to try again to open negotiations.

Some of the Labour-led councils which have delayed fixing a rate are expected today to drop their defiance of the Government. But a minority of the 20 councils which started the month with the intention of delaying their rate fixing are expected to continue their defiance in the new financial year.

Pressure on the minority will grow next week when they face a number of legal challenges which could lead to their removal from office.



Hourly-paid workers muster behind locked gates at the Clyde shipyard (Photograph: Tom Kidd)

Shipyard workers to decide on talks offer

By Ronald Faux

A mass meeting of the 3,800 hourly-paid workers supporting the occupation of the Yarrow shipyard on the Clyde will be held today to decide whether to accept an offer of talks from GEC, who are buying the yard from British Shipbuilders.

A spokesman for the shop stewards said yesterday that if management agreed to withdraw their suspension of five work they were greeted by locked doors and gates, with

would end so that talks with GEC could begin next Monday.

The workers are angry at the lack of consultation before the takeover was announced. They are demanding improvements in pay and conditions in line with other comparable private companies.

The decision to occupy the yard was taken at a mass meeting on Tuesday. Yesterday morning when the rest of the 5,300 employees arrived for work they were greeted by

the hourly-paid men allowing nobody into the yard.

Mr Doug Cowry, the yard convenor, accused British Shipbuilders of going back on an agreement that would have given the work force three weeks to come to a deal with any new owner, before the yard was finally sold.

Mr Bob Easton, chairman of Yarrow, said: "We haven't heard yet what the terms of GEC are. They are talking about lies, but the truth has been told to everybody."

After a number of meetings, the yard's clerical staff were sent home. Soon afterwards a police superintendent and an inspector arrived, and were let in for talks with shop stewards. Behind the men's anger at the sale lies the feeling that for years, as part of British Shipbuilders, their pay suffered because of negotiations that had to take into account the corporation's loss-making merchant yards. The Clyde workers have a long history of militancy in defending jobs.

Government may sell property agency

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

The Government is to consider privatizing the Crown Suppliers, part of the Property Services Agency, whose annual sales of goods and equipment for the public sector, including government departments and the armed forces, are worth more than £230 million.

In a Commons written answer yesterday, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, announced a review to investigate the future of the Crown Suppliers to be conducted by a team led by a Cabinet Office official, and to report by the summer.

The team will "consider the future of the Crown Suppliers and in particular whether it would be in the public interest to transfer to the private sector the activities, or part thereof, at present undertaken by the organization."

Representatives of the Crown Suppliers and the Treasury will be included in the team, which will seek advice from a merchant bank. Mr Jenkin said that staff of the department, which

Labour may disband rebel parties

By Lacy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Labour's national executive yesterday decided on a confrontation course against the six constituency parties that have changed their rules to incorporate black sections, a device to give blacks and Asians a greater voice in party affairs.

The Vauxhall party, which includes part of Brixton, has invited rebel parties to a meeting to be held next month to discuss a united stand against the executive action, and Mr David Hughes, the national agent, said yesterday the constituency party disbandment was an eventual option in dealing with determined advocates of the black section movement.

Meanwhile, the national executive yesterday agreed that all rebel delegates should be informed of the constitutional position.

If constituencies maintained their rebellion, Mr Hughes and a senior member of the executive would visit them in an attempt to persuade them to back down.

High death rate in animal shipments

By Tony Samstag

Most animals captured in the wild for export die before reaching their final destination, a conservation group said yesterday.

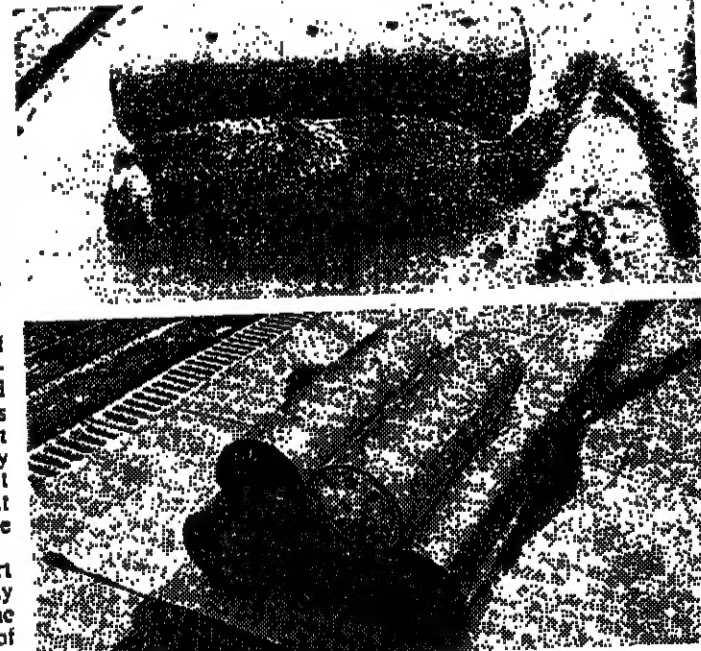
The Environmental Investigation Agency has called for a moratorium on the import of all wild animals and a strengthening of the regulations designed to protect them from "injury, damage to health and cruel treatment".

A report on the treatment of wild animals during air transport showed that of the total deaths, which may be as high as 80 per cent to 90 per cent, most occurred during or immediately after capture; about 4 per cent during transit; and 20 per cent during the subsequent quarantine period, the agency said.

The authors of the report studied the records of the City of London Animal Quarantine Station and the airport hostel of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals at Heathrow Airport, London, between 1977 and 1983, when 1.5 million specimens were handled.

Many animals during transit are crowded into unsuitable containers, with inadequate food, water, and ventilation.

Member nations of Cites are to meet in Buenos Aires next month to consider restrictions on trade in live fauna. The agency report, which includes more than 60 suggested amendments to the IATA regulations, will be presented to the meeting. Injury, damage to health, and cruel treatment: present conditions in the shipment of live fauna (Environmental Investigation Agency, 23b Highbury Crescent, London N5 1RX. £5 inc p&p).



A giant squirrel measured against its plastic container (top) and an illustration of the method used to stack the tubes in transit.

Case histories of cruelty.

1. Two Canadian river otters out of 10 survive in inadequately ventilated crates. Air Canada fined £1,200.

2. 10 howler monkeys and 20 capuchin monkeys shipped from Paraguay to London via Lima and Paris: 84 hours without attention in two crates 8in high. Two capuchins died on arrival, all howler monkeys died in quarantine. Air France fined £1,700.

3. 19 armadillos in unsuitable crates: four dead on arrival.

three loose in aircraft hold.

National Airlines ceased trading before case could be heard.

4. 29 squirrel monkeys, 15 with tails tied together as the result of frantic movement in their crate on journey from Bolivia to Japan, via Lima, Madrid and London. Six dead. Iberia Airlines fined £400.

5. Two crates containing 1,000 garter snakes from Miami. Of 800 snakes in one crate, only two survive; 76 out of 200 in the second. National Airlines fined £10,000, reduced to £2,500 on appeal.

CBI warning of Labour victory on jobless

By Edward Townsend

The Confederation of British Industry began an eight-month series of consultations yesterday on its new medium-term strategy document for the future of business while reiterating its warning that the free enterprise society was under threat from the "blight of unemployment".

The task of explaining the confederation's latest views on business and commerce could meet the challenge of unemployment were outlined by Sir James Clesminson, its president, who addressed the organization's Sheffield region.

He said CBI members throughout the country are to be asked for their opinions on the wide-ranging consultation document, which says that without radical measures to curb unemployment, "state control of the economy will be increasingly seen as an alternative".

Among the proposals members are asked to consider are far-reaching constitutional changes including an extension of the life of a government from five to seven years, an end to the secrecy surrounding the annual Budget

Yorkshire might have been atom bomb test site

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

Atomic weapons scientists at Aldermaston considered coastal sites in Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and Scotland for atom bomb detonations which were eventually switched to Australia.

It was disclosed at the royal Australian commission's hearing on the bomb trials in London last week that a test site at Duncansby Head, near Wick, Caithness, had been ruled out because of the wet weather in the area.

But declassified documents released to Mr George Foulkes, Labour MP for Carrick Cumnock and Doon Valley, yesterday disclosed that two other sites had also been considered in 1953: Skipsa, between Bridlington and Hull, on the Yorkshire coast; and a Royal Air Force bombing range called Donna Nook, on the coast near Mablethorpe, in Lincolnshire.

Scientists visited Skipsa and Donna Nook in 1953 and one Aldermaston official reported that they both had an extensive foreshore, with public rights of way which would have to be fenced off, that there were bungalows and beach huts nearby.

Mr Foulkes said last night that it was appalling that the health and safety of the local population was regarded as such an insignificant material issue.

Mr Kevin McNamara, MP for Hull North and a Labour defence spokesman, said he was "flabbergasted" that Skipsa should have been considered.

Mr John Townsend, Conservative MP for Bridlington, containing Skipsa, said that the area would have been a most inappropriate place.

AS-level exam is condemned

By Lacy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Many schools yesterday poured cold water on the new AS-level examination proposed in the Government's White Paper on schools, intended to broaden sixth-formers' knowledge.

One school, King Edward VI, in Morpeth, Northumberland, said that it was most unlikely that it would either want or be able to offer pupils the new examination, planned to take up half the time of A-level.

Mr Michael Duffy, the headmaster, who is chairman of the education committee of the Secondary Heads Association, said that the AS-level would effectively narrow the A-level curriculum.

Mr Brian Tyler, head of Kingswood School in Corby, Northamptonshire, said that there were better ways of broadening the curriculum.

Mr Derek Dutton, head of Richmond School, in North Yorkshire, said that the AS-level would lead to a "new kind of rat race".

Dismissing yesterday's announcement that the Government is to increase numbers training to be primary school teachers by only 10,900, 2,000 fewer than the number recommended.

Mirror anger over readers' ombudsman

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

Journalists working for the Daily Mirror group are likely to boycott a new "ombudsman" appointed by Mr Robert Maxwell, the publisher, to deal with readers' complaints. The job has gone to Sir William Wood, aged 68, a former civil servant.

The Mirror chapel (office branch) of the National Union of Journalists, says it was not properly consulted about the appointment. Officials are warned that the ombudsman's brief will lead to disciplining of members. The chapel is expected to meet today to discuss the matter.

Mr Maxwell said yesterday he knew nothing about objections from the NUJ.

● The National Union of Journalists, at its annual meeting in Bristol yesterday, decided to organise a "public inquiry" into the "distorted" media coverage of the miners strike. Delegates condemned "blatant bias" against striking miners.

Delegates also voted overwhelmingly to defy last year's Trade Union Act, making the NUJ the first union to pronounce on the legislation, which covers ballots for the election of officers.

Teenagers show off Sinclair tricycle

By Bill Johnstone

Technology Correspondent

Performing what are claimed to be road tests, teenagers have been hired to drive around London increasing public awareness of the controversial electric vehicle, the Sinclair C5, whose sales to date have been sluggish.

For a fee of £20 a day the teenagers drive and pedal the £399 Sinclair tricycle around London and answer any questions posed by inquisitive passers-by. About 5,000 of the C5s have been sold since the launch in January. The production target for the year is 100,000.

According to a Sinclair spokesman: "What we haven't done before are tests on inner-city roads. That is what the team is doing. Marketing is not the prime function but will undoubtedly be a spin-off."

The company denied that the marketing was the prime motive for the campaign. The London team of 20 will tour the capital's roads for a week showing off the vehicle. Similar forces will tour with the vehicle in Manchester, Birmingham and Leeds - the areas where the tricycle is now stocked in the high street.

Sir Clive Sinclair, the creator of the vehicle, considers the C5 a revolution in personal transport. He has been surprised that the initial response to his vehicle has not been greater and blames part of that response on the press for a lack of foresight and pessimistic reporting.

The 5,000 C5s Sinclair claims to have sold were within the first four weeks of launch and were made through mail order. The tricycle is now being stocked in about 400 retail outlets.

Soldier dies in Belfast blast

From Richard Ford

Belfast

A soldier was killed by a Provisional IRA bomb in Belfast yesterday which exploded within yards of a primary school playground and the Roman Catholic Cathedral.

The force of the blast blew out chunks of a wall adjoining the playground but because of the cold weather the children were indoors during lunchtime. Two civilians were slightly injured by the bomb which had been left in a derelict building near an alleyway leading to local shops.

The soldier, in his early twenties, was serving with the King's Own Royal Border Regiment and was the last person in a joint Army and police patrol. He caught the full force of the explosion as they walked through the strongly republican Drivis complex in west Belfast.

The death brought angry condemnation from mothers living near by who ran in a state of shock and panic to St Comgall's school fearing that their children had been injured in the attack.

Last night the Army were trying to get in touch with the next of kin of the dead man who lives overseas before releasing his name. He is the first member of the Regular Army to die in Northern Ireland this year, and only the second Regular soldier to be killed in Belfast since the beginning of 1984.

Meeting sought with Brittan on phone tap

The Trades Union Congress

is seeking an urgent meeting with Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, to protest at alleged telephone tapping of union officials involved in political or industrial disputes.

TUC delegation led by Mr Norman Willis, the general secretary, will meet Mr Brittan to demand that union leaders should be allowed to carry out their normal duties without fear of having telephone conversations intercepted.

The TUC hopes that the meeting can be held within the next two weeks. It will criticize what it sees as the limited scope of the inquiry under Lord Bridge, which investigated the tapping claims in a Channel Four television programme.

Cocaine haul has tripled

Cocaine seized in Britain by

customs officials has more than tripled during the past year, Mr David Mellor, a junior Home Office minister, disclosed last night.

In the first two months of 1984 ten kilograms were confiscated compared with three kilograms for the same period last year, he told the Commons home affairs select committee.

The Times overseas selling prices:
Australia \$4.25, Belgium 6.80, Canada \$2.25, Canada 6.80, France 6.80, Germany 6.80, Greece 6.80, Hong Kong 6.80, India 6.80, Italy 6.80, Japan 6.80, Korea 6.80, Malaysia 6.80, Mexico 6.80, Netherlands 6.80, New Zealand 6.80, Norway 6.80, Portugal 6.80, Singapore 6.80, South Africa 6.80, Spain 6.80, Sweden 6.80, Switzerland 6.80, Taiwan 6.80, Thailand 6.80, United Kingdom 6.80, USA 6.80, West Germany 6.80, Yugoslavia 6.80.

Free market economist's critical look at BBC

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Professor Alan Peacock, aged 62, chairman of the inquiry on BBC efficiency, confesses that he frequently falls asleep in front of the television. He hastens to add that this is probably not the fault of television and that he is "a keen watcher of sport, music, even the news".

Professor Peacock was a free market economist well before it became fashionable. As such, he has avoided the extremes adopted by more recent converts. He describes himself as liberal in the tradition of John

Stuart Mill, rather than the Austrian school.

His academic reputation has been built on the analysis of public expenditure and the application of market principles to areas such as education. In the early sixties he was one of the first proponents of education vouchers for use in the state school system.

He was appointed chief economic adviser to the department of Trade and Industry in the summer of 1973 and, somewhat surprisingly kept on when Labour won the 1974 general election. He served under Tony Benn until 1976,

fighting a losing battle against industrial subsidies.

Professor Peacock returned to York University until 1978, before moving on to University College, Buckingham, the "free enterprise university".

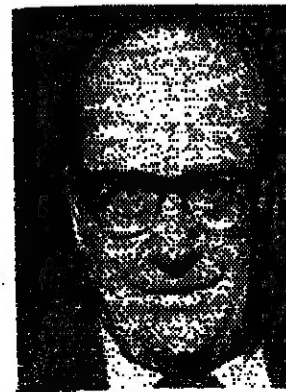
Buckingham, set up as an independent alternative to the state universities by, among others, Lord Beloff, obtained its Royal Charter in 1983 when Professor Peacock was principal.

He left at the end of this year and is at present part-time professor of economics at Heriot-Watt University. The rest of the time, he said, is

devoted to projects such as the BBC inquiry.

Professor Peacock said yesterday that his task would be to look at the problem in depth and that he was not starting with preconceptions about whether, for example, there should be advertising on the BBC.

His overall economic stance is that "I think markets work or can be made to work." A keen amateur musician and occasional composer, he is the veteran of about 10 committees or commissions of inquiry, including one completed two years ago, which examined the effect of inflation on the arts.



Professor Peacock

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Sports chiefs warned to combat drug abuse or risk losing grants

The governing bodies of 50 sports organizations were told by the Sports Council yesterday that unless they took measures to combat drug abuse they risk losing cash grants and the use of national sports centres.

Mr Dick Jeeps, chairman of the Sports Council, told the meeting on drug abuse held in London yesterday: "It is time that more sports declared themselves willing to fight this scourge. We do not want 'chemical athletes' in this country."

"We are determined to expand random testing in sport. We do not want to take financial sanctions but we may have to if it is the only way to stamp out drug abuse."

Governing bodies will be asked to submit their proposals for anti-doping programmes by the end of June and during that month the Sports Council will decide on the action it will take against those unwilling to implement effective steps.

The council has distributed its guidelines on anti-doping regulations and procedures to all sports, including a recommendation that a life ban should be imposed in every case of blatant abuse.

Since 1979, when subsidized



Mr Jeeps: "We do not want chemical athletes."

tests were introduced, the council has spent more than £500,000 on the drugs testing programme, research and funding of the Drugs Control and Teaching Centre at Chelsea College.

In spite of 100 per cent subsidies to meet testing costs, only 25 sports have carried out tests during the past six years and some on a very limited scale.

The council is to spend another £200,000 in the next

year in an attempt to control the problem.

The British Olympic Association has also asked the International Olympic Committee to insist that all competitors agree to random testing.

Mr Charles Palmer, the British Olympic chairman, said: "We have had an acknowledgement but no reply. We shall continue pushing."

Later in the meeting, Daley Thompson's claims of widespread drug-taking among British athletes were backed by Sir Arthur Gold, president of the European Athletic Association. He said that about half were guilty.

Daley Thompson, the Olympic and world decathlon champion, said last month that up to a third of Britain's track and field internationalists had taken drugs.

Mr Paul Dickenson, chairman of Britain's International Athletics Club, had previously estimated that six out of ten did.

Sir Arthur maintained that the root cause was in the United States where Daley Thompson had claimed that 80 per cent of athletes took drugs. Sir Arthur said: "Much of it would stop if athletes were not having to keep up with the American Joneses."



Mr Purdey celebrating yesterday's High Court decision in London. (Photograph: Dod Miller).

Farmer wins review of cattle spray order

Mark Purdey, a Somerset farmer, was allowed yesterday to ask a High Court judge to review the Ministry of Agriculture's decision to spray his herd of Jersey cows to protect them from warble fly.

The ministry was due to go to his farm this week to spray the 83 cows with a treatment Mr Purdey, aged 31, has refused to use because he claims it endangers human health.

Mr Purdey, of Dene Farm, Halse, Taunton, wants to treat the cows with a natural plant insecticide. Earlier this week he failed to get a court injunction to stop the ministry moving in after serving him with an enforcement notice because of his failure to comply with the Animal Health Act, 1981.

Mr Justice Woolf yesterday granted leave for judicial review of the decision, enforcement of which is now

delayed by the ministry pending the outcome of a full court hearing.

● A campaign to outlaw pesticide residues in food was launched yesterday by Friends of the Earth.

Mr Chris Rose, the group's countryside campaigner, pointed out that according to the Ministry of Agriculture between 97 per cent and 99 per cent of fresh fruit, cereals and vegetables were sprayed.

Vegetarians step up meat battle

By John Young

Agriculture Correspondent

The war between vegetarians and butchers for the nation's stomach intensified yesterday with the appointment by the Vegetarian Society of a chief executive determined "to make meat a thing of the past by the end of the century."

Mr Peter Cox, aged 30, an international marketing consultant, said that the society had already received more than 7,000 inquiries this year.

One of the main battle-grounds would be in schools, he said, where the meat industry had made it plain that it was going for the hearts and minds of young people. But young people already knew that "meat is murder" and would not accept expensive advertising that tried to hide the truth from them.

The society claims that vegetarianism is growing by 60 per cent a year and that on present trends half of the population will be vegetarian by 1991.

The meat industry's response is that this is a facile misuse of statistics, similar to assuming that if a greengrocer sells 100lb of lentils this year and 200lb next year, he will be selling more than 16 tonnes by the year 2000.

But there is no doubt that the industry, which has seen a 20 per cent decline in red meat consumption since the late 1960s, only partially compensated for by the increasing popularity of poultry, is extremely worried about the impact of vegetarianism.

Chemicals threat

Greenpeace, the conservation group, claimed yesterday that a cargo of toxic chemicals regularly shipped through the river Mersey could produce a massive disaster if an accident happened. The loads of volatile lead compounds are carried on tankers from the Associated Ocel plant at Ellesmere Port, Cheshire.

Two guilty in 'high society' drugs case

Two lesbian lovers in the "high-society" drugs trial were found guilty yesterday of supplying heroin and cocaine. Diana Willis, aged 42, an antiques dealer and her lover Vivian Wyatt, aged 32, are expected to be given prison sentences at a later date.

Judge Edwards remanded the pair in custody until April 15 for social inquiry reports, and said: "For neither defendant am I considering probation nor indeed am I considering anything less than a sentence of imprisonment."

An 11-man jury at Knightsbridge Crown Court found the pair guilty of supplying drugs to Christopher Aird Bennett, aged 29, a former Coutts Bank employee, of Chancery Lane, Beckenham, Kent.

The two women were cleared of supplying drugs to Emma De Vere Hunt, a millionaire's

daughter and former girl friend of Lord Glenconner's son, Charles Tennant.

Wyatt was also found guilty of possessing heroin with intent to supply and on two counts of possession. She was cleared of supplying cocaine to Midy Hershkovits, an hotelier's daughter.

Police Constable Robert Harvey, who led the investigation, said Willis was the dominant "business" partner. PC Harvey, of the Notting Hill drugs squad in west London, told the court: "There is no doubt in my mind Dianna Willis was the organizer and the brain. She was very much in control of this business-like operation."

Willis, of Buckley House, Addison Road, Holland Park, and Wyatt, of De Vere Gardens, Kensington, had denied all charges.

Anger over Oates' papers sale

By Michael Horsnell

The sale yesterday of documents from the black tin deed box of Captain Lawrence Oates, by Christie's in London for £4,536, has angered the Antarctic explorer's closest descendant.

Captain Robin Oates, nephew of the officer, who died on Captain Scott's expedition to the South Pole in 1912, attacked Christie's sale of the alleged secret surrounding the sale.

Lot 84, containing letters from various correspondents to Mrs Caroline Oates about her son's death, together with photographs and newspaper cuttings, was sold by an anonymous vendor to an unknown English private collector.

Captain Oates, aged 65, who lives in Essex, a few hundred yards from the family's former ancestral home at Gillingthorpe, had wanted the memorabilia to go either to the Oates Memorial Museum in Selborne, Hampshire, or to the explorer's regiment, the Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards.

But Christie's declined to tell him the name of the vendor, which would have enabled him to attempt to arrange a sale that would have given the regiment first refusal.

At the auction, Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Cordingley, the regiment's commanding officer and trustee of the museum, was outbid.

Captain Oates, who holds the Military Cross for service in North Africa, said: "I wrote twice to the auctioneers but they wouldn't help."

The regiment paid £50,000 a few months ago at Sotheby's for the Polar Medal won by Oates.

Sale room, page 16

40 police end occupation of women's hospital

More than forty women police officers forcibly entered the South London Hospital for Women early yesterday, ending a nine-month occupation by women protesters trying to prevent its closure.

The police found boobytraps when they entered the building, Commander Alex Marnoch, of the Metropolitan Police, claimed.

The entry was made by force and to get through the premises a number of obstacles had to be negotiated, including barricades and traps which had clearly been designed to injure, Mr Marnoch added.

A High Court eviction order was issued last week, and at 3am yesterday the police moved into the 73-year-old hospital, on the south side of Clapham Common. They found 29 women barricaded in parts of the building and had to enter through ground-floor windows.

During the operation, Mr Marnoch said two protesters were arrested for obstruction of the police but they were later released without charge.

It was the first time an all-female force had been used by his district for such an operation, Mr Marnoch said.

£25m new shows on Channel 4

A £25 million package of new programmes for the spring was announced by Channel Four yesterday, including new drama and comedy productions and a special sports programme for the summer.

London taxi driver Dave Griffiths will find fame at Easter when he stars as Handel in a film about the composer.

Mr Griffiths, aged 52, a bit part actor for 30 years and for the past 10 years a London cab driver, will star with Trevor Howard in *God Rot Turnbridge Wells*.

There will be two new situation comedies, with Fulton Mackay and Bernard Bresslaw in *Man's Best Friend*, and Paula Wilcox in *The Brigh Side*.

There will be a special sports programme aimed at the unemployed and people living in inner city areas. *Ever Thought of Sport?* - six half-hour programmes produced with the Sports Council - will show young people that they can take up sport wherever they live.

Insurance link by computers

By Bill Johnstone

Technology Correspondent

Britain's insurance brokers can be connected to leading insurance companies by high-speed telecommunications network in the autumn through a new service offered by British Telecom.

About 100 brokers will take part in a pilot scheme immediately. The brokers will be able to connect to the computers of the insurance companies and able to give customers instant quotes. The insurance groups are Commercial Union, Phoenix, the Prudential, Savio and Prosper, Standard Life and Sun Life.

The new service, known as Mediat, will be launched nationally in the autumn.

● British Telecom, which will have the biggest annual general meeting for shareholders seen in Britain, is hiring parts of the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham to stage the event in September.

Scimitar SSI on sale

The Reliant Scimitar SSI, the first popular-price two-seater sports car since the MG Midget and the Triumph Spitfire, has reached the showrooms (Our Motoring Correspondent writes).

The plastic-body SSI attracted great interest when it was displayed at the Motor Show last October. Many visitors placed orders, although the car's manual construction, with mass-produced plastic

panels bolted to a steel frame, was largely untested.

On sale today, the 1300cc model costs £6,995 and the 1600cc £7,795, making them realistic alternatives to sporting hatchbacks such as Ford's £7,274 Escort XR 3i. Both SSI models use Ford engines, gearboxes and axles.

The plastic body, whose panels can be replaced, is approved of by insurance companies.

Fraud loophole in computers

By Our Technology Correspondent

The ignorance of older management about computers and how they can be easily misused, and their security breached, is the principal reason why trusted employees are able to perpetrate million pound frauds.

The criticisms are contained in a report published today by the Audit Commission, based on 77 cases of fraud involving more than £1 million.

A large number of frauds were perpetrated by long-serving employees in trusted positions. 75 per cent of the reported frauds involved unauthorized altering of data, and in most cases the opportunity to carry out the fraud should have been obvious to the company's management.

"While new entrants in organizations are increasingly familiar with computing,

middle and senior management are invariably not. The new generation is ready to grasp the potential whereas others may fail to grasp the implications."

More computer frauds occurred than were ever reported, and even simple controls could eliminate a number of the frauds.

Enquiries: Audit Commission (1 Vincent Square, London SW1P 2PN).

Jury is asked: Who killed child?

A jury at the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday it was the Crown's case that the death of Jasmine Beckford, aged four, who died from punches to her head, was murder and "nothing else".

Mr Kenneth Richardson, for the prosecution, said: "Those punches were fairly hard and there was more than one of them. Remember the condition this child was in before those punches."

he was making his closing speech in the trial of Maurice Beckford, aged 25, a scaffolder

of College Road Kensal Rise, north London, who has denied murdering the child on July 5 last year. He has admitted two charges of cruelty and two of assault, causing actual bodily harm.

Beverly Lorrington, aged 24, the mother of the child, also of College Road, Kensal Rise, changed her plea, on Tuesday, from not guilty to guilty of two charges of wilful neglect of the child.

Mr Richardson told the jury: "You have to decide who killed Jasmine. If you decide it was not

Beckford, that is the end of it. "If you decide it was, and the crown says the evidence is abundant and conclusive, the prosecution then go on to say that this can only be murder, and for you to call it by any lesser name will be getting close to a travesty."

The prosecution has claimed that the girl was ill-treated.

Judge, Pigot, QC, the Common Sergeant of London, adjourned the trial, saying he would be sending the jury out this morning to consider its verdict.

Royal Assent for marriage

The Lord Chancellor, Lord

Hailsham of St Marylebone, told the Lords yesterday that Royal Assent has been granted to a private Marriage Enabling Act allowing Mr Alan Monk, a van driver, to marry his former mother-in-law, Mrs Valerie Hill.

Under common law Mr Monk and Mrs Hill, who live at Ashford, Kent, were forbidden to marry, and a special Act of Parliament was needed before a register office ceremony could take place.

Update on IBM, March 1985.

No.3

IBM exports take off.

In five years, IBM has climbed from Britain's 14th largest exporter to 6th position.* Exports last year were £1,175 million - an increase of 58% in one year alone.

IBM UK exports Information Technology equipment to customers in Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

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OVER 1,300 NEW JOBS

IBM's export success is a major factor in the company's continued employment expansion: 1,380 new jobs were created at IBM last year. IBM UK now employs over 17,500 people.

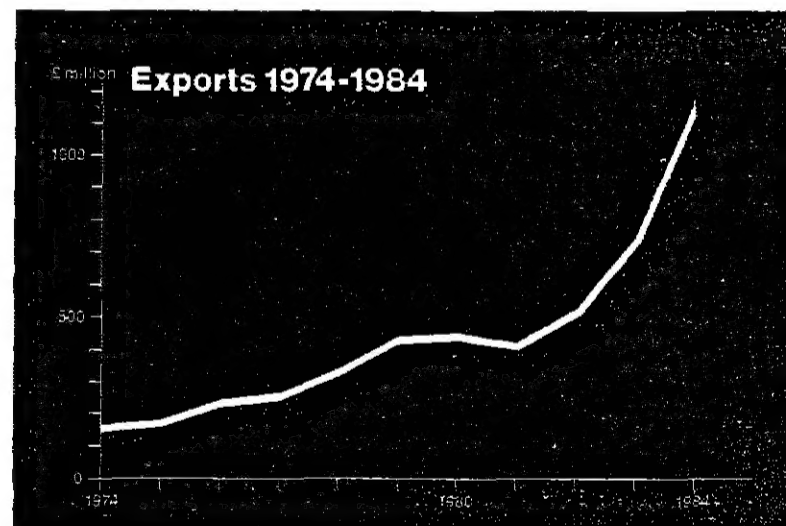
INVESTING MORE THAN TWO MILLION POUNDS A WEEK

IBM's exports also contribute to profits, much of which are then re-invested in Britain.

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WHY EXPORTS MATTER TO BRITAIN

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The NEDC reported that the 1983 balance of trade deficit for the UK was at least £800 million, and possibly more than twice as much. In contrast, IBM invests where it does business and has historically kept an approximate balance between its exports and imports.

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*Source: Times 1000 1979-80, 1984-85.

MPs press Channon to renew MFA

**Geoffrey
Smith**

But they could not stop the British and Irish Parliaments setting up some kind of joint body, or the British and Irish Governments establishing a more formal consultative system in Northern Ireland. We are not back in the days of 1974. So the critical questions are whether Mrs Thatcher will be prepared to go ahead, and whether Dr FitzGerald will be satisfied with the limited package that is likely to be available.

Visit to scene opens inquiry

Judge hears police and township accounts of how 19 blacks died

From Michael Hornsby, Langa, Eastern Cape

The inquiry into the killing of 19 blacks by a police riot squad a week ago opened yesterday with a visit to the scene by Mr Justice Donald Kannemeyer, the Supreme Court judge assigned to sift the truth from radically different accounts of what happened.

Wearing a trilby and pin-stripe suit, Judge Kannemeyer was protected by a large police contingent and followed by a retinue of local and foreign journalists. Township residents gathered in large numbers, and some came forward to tell their stories.

Lieutenant John Fouché, the police officer who gave the order to fire, gave his version of the incident and the relative positions of his men and of a large crowd of blacks who police said had been hurling stones and petrol bombs.

The lieutenant said he had blocked the road from the township with two armoured cars. A large crowd of blacks approached from about 500 yards away over a rise in the road.

They fanned out across open veld and were joined by others. At about 50 yards Lt Fouché stood up in his vehicle and told them to stop.

They ignored the warning, he

said and when they were about 10 yards away he fired into the ground in front of them. That, too, was ignored. When the front line of marchers was seven yards away he ordered his men to fire.

A member of the Opposition Progressive Federal Party, Mr Errol Moorcroft, then pointed out what appeared to be a large bloodstain some 30 yards from where the police vehicles were parked. This is likely to be used as evidence that the crowd was not so close as the police maintain.

Mr Moorcroft also drew the judge's attention to five apparent bullet marks on the stone facing of a culvert. It would have been difficult to hit, he said if the police had fired only a single volley from their vehicles, as claimed.

Township residents claim almost uniformly that the police gave no warning, and deny that the crowd had stones and petrol bombs.

They also say that after the first burst police left their vehicles and pursued the fleeing marchers. More shots were fired, and some people were hit in the back.

In the afternoon the judge, who forms a one-man commission, opened the inquiry

proper in the small magistrates' court at the nearby white town of Uitenhage. He interpreted his brief as being to "investigate all the factual circumstances" of "a confrontation between a group of people and members of the South African police".

Evidence would be restricted to "the matter of what happened on the day in question". He did not see it as part of his task to investigate the political, economic or social causes which might have led to the shooting.

The Oxford-educated judge said he wanted to produce a report quickly, but would do nothing to stifle the investigation. He would welcome evidence from "anyone who could help me with the difficult task".

The judge intends to hear police evidence first, and then that of township residents.

The rest of yesterday's proceedings was taken up largely with evidence from a local magistrate and security policeman which confirmed that a funeral due to have taken place at nearby Kwanobushie last Thursday had been banned at short notice.

Langa residents say the crowd was making its way to the funeral, which many people did not know had been cancelled.



Royal toast: The Queen raises her glass to President Eanes of Portugal at a Lisbon banquet.

Soares entry hopes run high

From Richard Wigg, Lisbon

Portugal's Prime Minister, Dr Mario Soares, expressed confidence here yesterday that terms for his country's entry into the EEC finally can be settled in Brussels today. Britain and France have encouraged him in this hope.

After hosting a lunch for the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, Dr Soares told me that a telephone conversation with President Mitterrand had satisfied him that outstanding matters concerning Portugal's entry would be resolved by the time the Community's foreign ministers meet Portuguese and Spanish representatives prior to the EEC summit opening tomorrow.

The Prime Minister also said he was in contact yesterday with Mr Andreas Papandreas, his Greek counterpart, in an effort to persuade Athens not to seek to exercise a veto on Spanish and Portuguese entry at the last minute.

"Spain has made so many concessions," Dr Soares said. "It would be a tragedy now for the Iberian countries and for the rest of Europe if this opportunity is lost."

Dr Soares conceded that Portugal would have to resign itself to being unable to enter the EEC alone if Spain's terms could not be settled in Brussels. Large, friendly crowds applauded the Queen and the Duke as they left the national palace in the tiny town of Sintra, the summer residence of the former kings of Portugal.

"Nowhere else in Europe does the Queen of England receive so warm and spontaneous a greeting as in Portugal," Dr Soares said.

The Queen had assured the Portuguese at Tuesday night's banquet given by President Eanes that in Britain's view the EEC "will not be complete without you".

The Queen warned, however, that joining the EEC means a willingness to adapt to change. "The experience for us has been valuable, corrective and positive, though by no means easy. Membership brings new challenges but also new opportunities."

Dr Eranio Lopes, Portugal's Economics Minister, was in Brussels yesterday to meet top EEC officials.

Warning to Budapest on prices

From Roger Boyes, Budapest

A senior Hungarian Politburo member yesterday echoed anxious calls in Warsaw by urging party leaders to listen to angry protests about price increases.

Mr Sándor Gaspar, aged 67, president of the Hungarian Trade Union Council, acknowledged the bitterness that had followed January's sharp price rises in Hungary. "Never again should a price be increased without proper preparation," he told some 1,000 delegates to the Hungarian Communist Party congress.

The speech was delivered on the day that Polish papers published conciliatory comments by the main Polish propaganda chief, Mr Jan Głowczyński. He said the party leadership should listen attentively to public protests about price rises: "without constructive listening to criticism, it is impossible to win over the working class for economic reform".

Although Hungary has a well-developed reform - with full shops as evidence - while Poland is struggling in the early stages, both face the problem of convincing citizens that regular and often hefty increases in the prices of food, heating and services are a necessary part of the policy.

In Poland the message was driven home by another work stoppage, by the largely female workforce at the Rosa Luxemburg light-bulb factory increased four weeks ago.

The level of public discontent remains relatively restrained in Hungary. There have been many unofficial accounts of stormy meetings in factories, but no indication of major industrial action.

Australia says no to Star Wars research

Sydney (Reuters) - Australia will not join in America's research programme for the "Star Wars" anti-missile defence system, its Defence Ministry said yesterday.

The statement came a day after the US Defence Secretary, Mr Caspar Weinberger, announced that he is inviting 17 nations - America's Nato allies, plus Israel, Japan and Australia - to take part in research for the project.

Mr Bob Hawke, Australia's Labour Prime Minister, told his Parliament yesterday that he had not received Mr Weinberger's invitation. But the Defence Ministry said Australia had already made it clear that it would not become involved in research for the project, officially known as the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI).

Australia has strong links with the United States under the Auzus defence alliance. The two countries share communications bases in Australia.

PARIS: Mr Weinberger arrived in Paris yesterday for a three-day visit, during which he will try to persuade the sceptical French to support President Reagan's \$26 billion "Star Wars" scheme. Of all the Nato allies, France has expressed the most serious reservations about the plan. (Our Correspondent writes).

The French government said yesterday it had no comment on Mr Weinberger's invitation, to which he wants formal replies within 60 days. In recent months, however, President Mitterrand and his Defence Minister, Mr Charles Hernu, have three chief worries about the idea.

First, by developing such a system the United States would force the Soviet Union to begin a similar programme of its own - which would have terrible consequences for the French

nuclear force de frappe. In an interview last December, Mr Hernu said: "The nuclear deterrent remains by no means easy, and its vital interests, as well as for Europe, the only protection. If we were to find ourselves in another system other than nuclear deterrence, what would become of France and of Europe?"

Second, the French fear that, although the system cannot become operational for at least 20 years, it could create a false sense of security among the public, reducing pressure for nuclear disarmament.

Finally, the French fear that SDI poses a technological challenge to Europe. They have been sceptical about American offers to share in its development.

LUXEMBOURG: Nato defence ministers in the nuclear planning group, which does not include France, voted unanimously yesterday to support the research programme. Mr Weinberger had told them that that scheme would include defence against medium-range missiles directed against West Europe.

LONDON: A grouping of political and military figures has been formed to persuade West European governments and industry to become involved in "Star Wars" research (Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent writes).

The group, called the European High Frontier Advisory Council, includes representatives from Britain, West Germany, France and Italy. Its British representative, Air Vice-Marshal Stewart Mennall, said yesterday that within the foreseeable future big industries in Britain and on the Continent might be offered contracts that would provide jobs and keep them in the technological forefront.

MX vote hailed as Reagan triumph

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

Tuesday night's crucial 219-215 vote in the House of Representatives in favour of releasing \$1.5 billion (1.24 billion) to build 21 more MX missiles is another triumph for President Reagan and his high-profile style of political lobbying.

It also represents a significant setback for the Democratic Party, which is still trying to recover from last year's shattering defeat in the presidential election. Sixty-seven Democrats broke ranks and voted for the missile, even though the entire party leadership in the House voted against it.

The narrowness of the President's victory means, however, that his request for a further \$4 billion for 48 more missiles next year could be in serious trouble. It also means that the President can expect fierce opposition to his requests for funds for other major weapon programmes.

Indeed, some Democrats even hoped that Tuesday night's vote could still be reversed when the House holds a second vote today on the MX. (Tuesday's vote was to authorize money to build 21 more missiles; today's vote is to appropriate the money.) However, it was widely expected that the vote would be the same. When the Senate held two votes for the same purpose last week, the margin was 55-45 both times.

President Reagan, who spent much of the past three weeks lobbying for the missile, praised the House vote as "an important and unmistakable signal of American unity and resolve... a clear demonstration of our determination to maintain the modern forces necessary for effective deterrence and to do everything possible to achieve significant arms reductions".

Two Democrats contributed significantly to the President's victory - Mr Max Kampelman, head of the US negotiating team at the Geneva arms talks, and Representative Les Aspin (D, Wisconsin), chairman of the armed services committee.

Mr Kampelman, a conservative Democrat, was brought back from Geneva last weekend to give public support to President Reagan's contention that the MX was needed to strengthen America's hand at the arms talks, which began earlier this month. Mr Tip O'Neill, the House Speaker, said Mr Kampelman had "cemented the President's argument" with half-a-dozen wavering Democrats.

Mr Aspin swayed a few more Democrats in support of the missile when he said in a speech at the end of Tuesday's debate that "it would be crazy for Congress, at this point, to take something away from our negotiators".

The missiles have a 6,675-mile range, and each will carry 10 independently targetable nuclear warheads, each equivalent to 300,000 tons of TNT.

MOSCOW: Tass described as a "total lie" President Reagan's argument that "pursuit of the MX programme will contribute to the success of the Geneva negotiations" (AFP reports).

Tass accused President Reagan of resorting to "the tactic of the carrot and stick and even to open threats".

Thousands run riot in Khartoum

By Our Foreign Staff

After President Gaafar Nimeiry of Sudan left Khartoum for a visit to the United States yesterday, rioting was spreading in the Sudanese capital. Mr Nimeiry is to have a medical check-up and meet President Reagan on Monday.

According to diplomatic sources, disturbances began on Tuesday in Omdurman across the Nile from Khartoum. A few hundred students from the Islamic University marched towards the People's Assembly but were prevented from reaching it and started fires. The university was closed.

Rioting broke out on a larger scale in Khartoum yesterday, with technical school students and those from the Khartoum branch of Cairo University joined by other demonstrators, including unemployed people. Cars were overturned and windcreens and headlamps smashed.

The areas particularly affected were said to be the centre of Khartoum, the residential district of Khartoum and Saggana. There were no initial reports of any threats to members of the British community, although two Britons found hiding inside a Land-Rover were left unharmed because demonstrators apparently told them that they had no quarrel with them.

One eye-witness said that thousands of young people, many of them girls, ran through the streets of central Khartoum, smashing the windows of buildings and every car in sight.

According to another source, some demonstrators carried placards with anti-Army slogans.

Eleven are hurt in Chile bomb blasts

Santiago (Reuters) - Two powerful car bombs exploded here on the eve of a day of protest called by leftist opponents of President Pinochet. Eleven people were injured. The blasts occurred outside the offices of the Government newspaper La Nación and in a shopping centre.

There were also reports of explosions in Rancagua, Vina del Mar and Valparaiso.

Boy's credit card spree

Frankfurt (Reuters) - A 16-year-old West German boy travelled the world with a credit card sent to him after he claimed to be a 41-year-old doctor with five houses and a yearly income of £13,500, police said.

Soon after receiving the card the boy flew for holidays in London, Paris, Rio de Janeiro and Hamburg and stayed in top-class hotels. The cost of his spree is put at about £2,200.

Plight of Czech protester

Vienna (Reuters) - An Austrian Catholic group has protested to Czechoslovakia over the case of a man committed to psychiatric treatment in Czechoslovakia after collecting signatures opposing the siting of nuclear missiles in the country. The group put its views in a letter to President Husak of Czechoslovakia asking him to review the case of Jan Fukalik, aged 22, who was arrested in November 1983.

No Islamic bomb

Karachi (Reuters) - The International Atomic Energy Agency has no evidence that any Muslim country is building a so-called "Islamic bomb", a senior agency official, Signor Maurizio Zifferero said, in an interview with the daily Dawn published here.

Grants protest

Moscow (Reuters) - Soviet police dispersed about 60 Mauritanian students attempting to occupy their country's embassy in Moscow in protest against failure to provide study group grants. The students said they had received no grants for over two years.

Tigers thrive

Delhi (AP) - Tigers have killed 22 people in three months in the forests of West Bengal, despite the use of electrified human dummies, officials said. Once on the verge of extinction, they have bounced back under Project Tiger, a protection programme launched 11 years ago.

Prolific beer

Nairobi (Reuters) - Beer-drinkers in Kenya have been assured that reports that a contraceptive drug has been added to their beer were just rumours. Kenya Breweries denied inserting the drug under government orders.

Fund for birds

Stockholm (Reuters) - The World Wildlife Fund said it had set up a special fund in collaboration with the Scandinavian airline SAS to protect Scandinavian birds of prey. The fund was started off with an SAS donation of \$110,000.

Family funeral

Dunedin (Reuters) - A New Zealand housepainter, Michael Woods, worried about money problems, shot his wife, stabbed his three small sons to death and set a funeral pyre for the family before shooting himself, a coroner's court was told here.

Converts jailed

Katmandu (AP) - Eight men have been jailed for six months on charges being converted to Christianity, to the detriment of Hinduism, and of propagating their new religion. Six others were cleared because their conversion occurred outside Nepal in India.

Oil broker guilty of Salem fraud

From A Correspondent, Houston

Oil broker Frederick Soudan of Houston was found guilty here of involvement in a swindle that defrauded companies and a government of \$36 million (about £47 million).

A jury in Houston convicted him on 17 charges and acquitted him on five. They had deliberated for about nine hours after hearing evidence for 11 weeks.

Soudan, 41, is the first of four principals in the so-called Salem affair to have been tried and convicted since the swindle began to unfold more than five years ago.

The jury found that Soudan used fraud to sell 1.4 million barrels of stolen oil to the South African Government and that he had his superintendant, the Salem, scuttled to cover up the theft. The 219,000-tonne vessel sank off the Senegal coast.

Soudan's lawyers said they would appeal against the conviction after he is sentenced on April 22. Soudan faces up to 86 years in prison and fines totalling \$88,000 for fraud, conspiracy, tax evasion and perjury.

The prosecutors asked the judge to freeze \$100,000 of Soudan's money in a Bahamas bank to help pay the trial costs.

The shell petroleum company, which lost \$15 million in the Salem affair, already had frozen about \$300,000 of Soudan's funds in a Swiss bank.

Also convicted was Soudan's cousin and brother-in-law, Abdul Wahab al Ghazou, aged 48, a Damascus businessman, who was accused of helping Soudan launder his profits.

Witnesses testified that Soudan and men from Greece and Holland stole an oil cargo from Pontoli of Italy and sold it for \$25 million to South Africa. While the oil was on board the Salem, Pontoli resold it to Shell for \$36 million.

The cargo was secretly diverted to South Africa, witnesses said.

Neves's stand-in rallies politicians behind him

From Patrick Knight, São Paulo

With the realization that it will take at least three months, and probably considerably longer, for President-elect Tancredino Neves to be fit enough to govern after three operations, the political situation in Brazil has altered completely.

The Vice-president, Senator José Sarney, aged 55, who has so far merely been going through the motions, will not be in complete charge, at least for the time it takes for Senator Neves, who is 75, to recover.

After much vacillating, politicians are making it clear that they are prepared to work with the new man, and are encouraging Senator Sarney to take command.

Leaders of all parties in Congress, went to pledge him their support as Senator Neves was being operated on during Tuesday afternoon.

For the first time in 12 days, since Senator Neves was first taken ill, Senator Sarney started to give orders, to receive delegations, to sign decrees, and to start filling the large number of positions remaining vacant in the new administration.

Legitimacy has in fact passed to the Vice-President.

Responding to the need of most Brazilians for a strongly identifiable figure as leader, the image-builders have worked overtime in the past six months. Senator Neves, first as the choice of the broad Democratic Front multi-party alliance, and then as President-elect, as the only man capable of leading Brazil during its transition from military rule to democracy, and public opinion was persuaded

that this was indeed the case.

Once the Democratic alliance had defeated the Social Democrat Party (PDS) candidate, Senator Paulo Maluf, in the January 15 electoral college victory, the media was packed with detail of the habits and idiosyncrasies of the elderly politician from Minas Gerais state, who has in fact achieved very little during his long political life.

It is true that he, far more than Senator Sarney, has the credentials to gain support from the whole political spectrum. He never cooperated with the military regimes of the 21 years, while Senator Sarney served as leader of the PDS, through which the generals ruled.

For the politicians, however, the fundamental point is that power is back with them. They are quite prepared to fall in behind Senator Sarney to hang on to it.

Public opinion is a different matter. Many Brazilians are still convinced that some conspiracy is preventing Senator Neves from taking power, and that Senator Sarney is in some way mixed up with it. It may prove difficult to convince them otherwise.

A secret pact had been worked out between Senator Neves and the soldiers to let bygones be bygones, and Senator Sarney will certainly respect that. Unless the economy, or social order breaks down, the military has no intention of leaving the barracks and democratic rule looks set fair whoever sits in the presidential palace.

New computer launched

From Our Correspondent, Washington

American Telephone and Telegraph Co. (AT&T) has celebrated its first anniversary in the commercial computer business by unveiling its second personal computer. Called the Unix PC, it is a relatively

powerful desk-top machine that can accommodate up to nine users.

The Unix PC can also be hooked up to telephone systems and its video screen can display simultaneously several "windows" or data from separate operations. The basic price is \$5,095 (£4,210).

European subsidies finally agreed

EEC angry at US steel curbs

From Ian Murray, Brussels

The EEC has settled its differences over steel subsidies and, having put its own house in comparative order, has made a full-scale attack "the more and more obviously protectionist measures" of the United States.

The agreement on aid to the steel industry was reached between Industry Ministers in Brussels early yesterday, when France finally agreed the Community rule that subsidy payments must end this year, in return for conditional

reimbursement for extra 1985 payments to its own industry.

France and Italy both insisted before the meeting that they must be allowed to help their industries above amounts allowed under present agreements. This will now be allowed provided the Commission is satisfied that the money is to help individual companies

become viable, and not to subsidize prices.

Mr Peter Sutherland, the Commissioner responsible for the sector, yesterday described the settlement as an important milestone for the Community, representing a genuine attempt at a conciliatory approach by all member states.

The agreement reflected real concern to make the industry coherent. Without it there was a danger of France's acting alone

The Community is now on target to cut steel capacity by more than the 30 million tonnes agreed in 1982. "There can be no talk of victory or defeat. The Community succeeded through solidarity," he said.

Mr Sutherland added that estimates of the need to shed another 15 million tonnes

capacity would be discussed this year.

As for the United States, ministers agreed on a toughly worded statement in the light of the decision not to allow France to deliver pipes for the "all-American pipeline". The EEC feels that the pipes are not prohibited exports because they are in short supply from domestic American producers.

The statement said the US decision ran counter to the letter and spirit of the agreement, and warned that the EEC would react with the greatest vigour against unilateral actions.

The Commission has been told to prepare retaliatory measures, and the US Administration has been warned that its attitude is putting at risk a new round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

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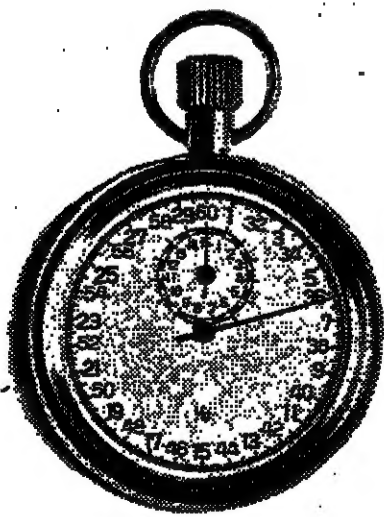
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THE LATEST WEAPON IN THE GOVERNMENT'S FIGHT AGAINST THE GLC.



The committee or discussion stage of the Abolition Bill in the House of Commons has just come to an end.

It shouldn't have.

Because MPs only had a chance to discuss fully 16 of the Bill's 98 clauses.

The remaining 82 were either only briefly touched on or not discussed at all.

That's because a ridiculously short time limit was set on the committee's sitting.

The future control of the ILEA's schools and colleges were

dismissed in just 5½ hours. A fraction of the time it takes to sort out the average school timetable.

The future organisation of London's fire service and civil defence was dealt with in just 1¾ hours.

And the funding of 2,500 voluntary organisations took under 4 hours.

And it shows just how much time the Government's got for Londoners.

74% SAY NO.

Survey of Londoners on GLC Abolition, Harris Research Centre.

The day death came to a CBS film team in Lebanon

Last Thursday, two Lebanese CBS television men were killed by Israeli tank fire south-east of Sidon. Was it a deliberate attack - part of a campaign against intrusive press men - or did the Israelis have good reason to open fire? Correspondents in Beirut, Jerusalem and Washington have pieced together what is known.

'Everyone ran for cover...'

On the morning of March 21, two television crews - from CBS and from UPITN - set out from Beirut to cover Israeli raids in south Lebanon.

The CBS crew comprised the cameraman, Tewfiq Ghazawi, and the soundman, Bahji Metni, together with a driver, Ayad Harakeh; all three were Lebanese nationals. UPITN's crew was Sami Zuneiddin - the soundman, who doubled up as driver - and Vladimir Popov, the cameraman; both were also Lebanese.

Ayad Harakeh is still too ill to talk much. Ghazawi and Metni are dead. The most detailed evidence of what happened comes from the UPITN crew. They drove to Sidon early that morning in their light brown Mercedes. At about ten o'clock they saw the CBS crew - all the men knew each other - at a Lebanese Army position south of Sidon. Zuneiddin and Popov met a friend in the Lebanese Civil Defence Corps who told them that Israeli tanks were firing shells into the village of Kfar Melki.

Both crews headed along a winding road to the village. Zuneiddin and Popov drove through Kfar Melki and saw the CBS crew filming a building

damaged by an Israeli shell. UPITN shot tape of the same building. After a few minutes, the CBS crew climbed into their red Mercedes and drove to a narrow road on a ridge in the village on which there stood a villa and two unfinished houses. Popov and Zuneiddin again followed the CBS crew.

At this point, CBS got out of their car and took film shots of the village of Jbsa across the valley. They were to shoot 11 minutes and 58 seconds of tape before they died. Their tape shows the hill village apparently deserted; no soldiers or tanks are visible.

The UPITN crew got out of their car when they reached the CBS men on the road. Zuneiddin was getting his sound recorder from the back of the car when a tank shell (there is no fixed Israeli artillery in the area) landed. Zuneiddin was blown off his feet.

About 20 seconds later, a second tank shell landed, 10 yards behind the UPITN car. After a further 20 seconds, a third tank round landed 10

yards in front of the car. Zuneiddin said later: "They were obviously trying to get the car".

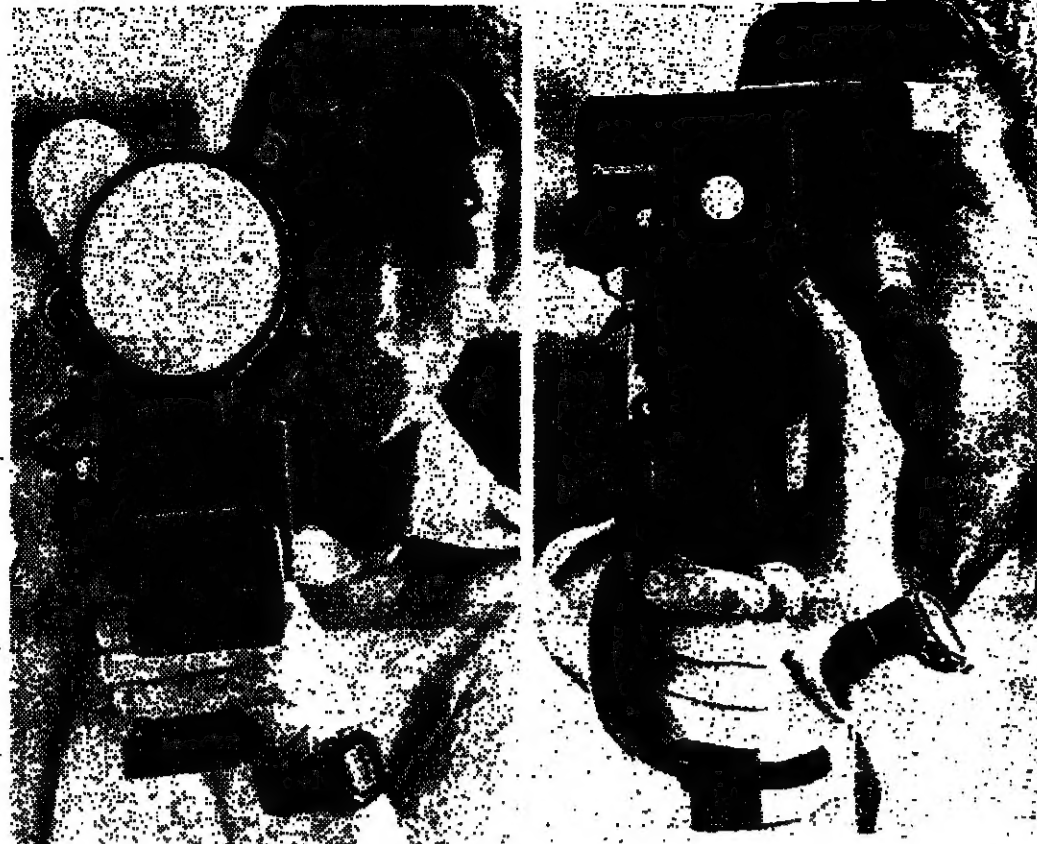
A few seconds later, the UPITN men saw the CBS crew and driver running crouched towards them.

Both crews ran to the home of the village doctor.

At this point, the crews were joined by two French broadcasting reporters. A civil defence worker and another villager retrieved the abandoned cars, and the CBS men filmed the damage to the UPITN car caused by Israeli shrapnel. About 15 villagers had meanwhile gathered round the house. UPITN say that none of them was armed.

Ghazawi then placed a new cassette in his camera. A woman among the villagers called out that someone had been wounded, and the villagers started to rush off.

Ghazawi put his camera to his shoulder, stepped two paces into the road, and started filming the scene. He ran about 15 seconds of tape. Zuneiddin says that at this moment there was a big explosion as a tank shell detonated about 6ft from Ghazawi, killing him instantly. Zuneiddin says he did not see the death of Metni or the



Mistaken identity: The Israeli Army published this picture yesterday to show how an observer at a distance could mistake a television camera (right) for the rocket-launcher

wounding of the CBS driver. Everyone ran for the cover of houses, and then two more shells landed, one of them scoring a direct hit on the empty CBS car. The UPITN crew was 100 yards away when the CBS crew died. They say there were no gunmen in the street. Neither Zuneiddin nor

Popov saw the tank that fired. On earlier tape made by the CBS crew, however, two tanks can clearly be seen, hull down on a hillside below Jbsa, firing at irregular intervals into Kfar Melki.

If these tanks were the ones that killed the CBS men, they appear on the deadmen's tape

to have been at least 1000 yards from Kfar Melki. Since the neighbouring village of Aankum was coming under tank fire at the same time, these two tanks were apparently laying down an irregular bombardment of the three or four miles of territory in a radius around them to the west.



The victims: Bahji Metni (left) and Tewfiq Ghazawi, the CBS men killed by an Israeli tank shell at Kfar Melki

Crucial issue was range of tank

Thursday, March 21: The first official communiqué from the Israel Defence Forces concerning the raid on villages north of Sidon's new frontline in Lebanon made no reference to the deaths of the two CBS crewmen, speaking only of 21 "terrorists" being killed and seven wounded. Some 45 minutes later, in response to repeated questioning from Israeli-based reporters, a second communiqué was issued from Tel Aviv.

Timed at 21.15 (19.15 GMT), it said: "The IDF spokesman announces that an IDF force which was engaged in military activity in the area of the village of Melki in southern Lebanon spotted armed men who had taken firing positions. A tank which was in the area opened fire. It appears that the CBS crewmen who were reported to have been wounded were among the armed men in the village."

CHRISTOPHER WALKER reports from Jerusalem on the sequence of events

"The IDF does not shoot at civilians, including journalists, who are clearly identified as such. If journalists enter territory in which armed terrorists are located, they take on themselves the risk of being hurt."

Israeli government sources later said Mr Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, had been furious when he discovered the communiqué had expressed no apology nor regret.

The apparent unwillingness of the Israelis to show any remorse added to the anger of CBS executives, who decided to scrap plans to broadcast the influential *Morning News* programme from Israel throughout the whole of Holy Week.

Mr Edward Joyce, news president of CBS, sent a telex to Mr Peres from New York, part of which said: "We urge immediate and energetic action by your Government to investigate the responsibility for this tragic and shameful occurrence, and once the facts are clear to take rigorous action to prevent the recurrence of such outrageous behaviour by the Israeli forces."

Friday March 22: Israeli papers carried front page reports about French eyewitness accounts from southern Lebanon that the

Israeli tank had deliberately fired on a car carrying a press tag. At 13.15, the Government released the full text of Mr Peres's reply to CBS, in which he said: "I wish to express my deep sorrow at the tragic death of two newsmen in south Lebanon. Please convey my condolences to the families and to CBS News, and my wishes for a full and speedy recovery to the wounded."

The tank crew involved did not deviate from the strict orders concerning the protection of innocent bystanders. It appears that the cameraman took position in the midst of a group of armed men who were engaged in hostile activity against the IDF. This did not satisfy Mr Joyce.

Sunday March 24: Israeli military correspondents said an Israeli Army investigation had shown the tank had shot from 2.5 kilometres (1.5 miles) and not 500 metres (about 500 yds), as claimed by French witnesses. The officer in charge could not see the press identification on the journalists' vehicle from that distance.

The officer said he saw armed men alongside a civilian vehicle, and fired according to orders. In Jerusalem, Mr Ernest Leiser, CBS vice-president, requested an official inquiry, but was turned down.

Monday March 25: Mr Leiser was taken on a tour of the site of the shooting and met the divisional commander of the unit whose tank fired the fatal shell.

Tuesday March 26: After a meeting between Mr Peres and Mr Leiser, CBS officially backed down, from its accusation that the two men had been killed deliberately. Israeli officials claimed it had been established "beyond doubt" that the television crew had been shot from 2.5 kilometres, and not 500 metres. Mr Leiser rejected the suggestion that CBS might apologize to Israel, but said: "... we might have qualified our language somewhat. I think our reaction was proportionate to what we experienced and knew at the time."

Wednesday March 27: An Israeli official said the Government regarded the incident as closed.

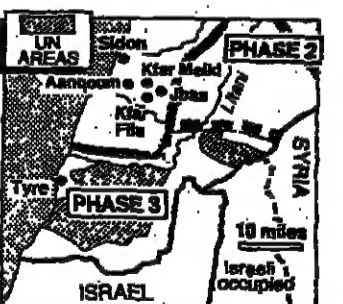
Reporters in firing line as Israelis hit back

To an outsider, the killing of the two CBS journalists at Kfar Melki last week might appear a singular event, a "tragic error" to use the Israeli phrase, that could scarcely have been foreseen. To the journalists who cover southern Lebanon from Beirut, however, such deaths were inevitable. Trapped in their savage war against the guerrillas of southern Lebanon, Israeli troops have shown little compunction about shelling civilian areas, shooting wildly into streets and lanes, or storming into villages north of their occupation zone, killing the innocent as well as the guerrillas.

ROBERT FISK reveals the tensions between Israeli troops and war correspondents.

On the day that Tewfiq Ghazawi and Bahji Metni died in Kfar Melki, a middle-aged woman and a 67-year-old man were among 13 people shot dead by the Israelis in the neighbouring village of Hounine et-Tahta. Nobody has demanded an inquiry.

Many United Nations officers and other eyewitnesses think the military and ethical standards of the Israelis in southern Lebanon have fallen far below those expected of a western army and certainly below the standards the Israeli



Defence Forces set for themselves.

Nor is it surprising that some television crews suspect the Israelis deliberately killed their colleagues at Kfar Melki. The Israelis have tried to prevent Western correspondents from working independently in their occupation zone. They have ordered journalists out of Southern Lebanon and soldiers have fired over the heads of reporters.

When an Israeli soldier in Sidon saw me watching troops laughing as they deliberately destroyed the wall of a man's house with a tank - there had been an ambush at the scene earlier - he fired over my head and swore at me in Arabic.

It would be wrong to suggest that the Israelis do not have a fierce enemy in southern Lebanon. They are being savaged in this war in a way they have never experienced before. This is one reason why journalists are continuing to report this historic conflict.

How Reagan reacted

President Reagan was asked at his nationally televised press conference on Thursday, March 21 by Lesley Stahl, the CBS White House correspondent, for his reaction and whether he planned to lodge any protest with the Israeli Government (Moshim Ali writes from Washington).

He replied: "Well, first of all, I'd like to know all the details of this. I'm quite sure, in combat of that kind, this was not a deliberate thing. You were, they were engaged in gunfire with

armed persons who were also in civilian clothes, not uniformed, as they would be in a war."

"So these things can happen. And it is a tragedy. And all I can say is that I think all of us have a great feeling of sorrow about the tragedy that is going on there in Lebanon and particularly in south Lebanon now as the Israelis try to withdraw. And whichever side the acts of terror, the retaliation, both of them, are leading to tragedies that just seem to be so, so needless."

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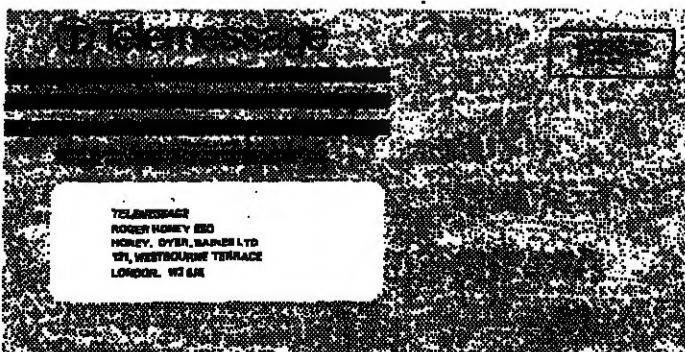
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Chinese slash spending and freeze wages in battle against inflation

Peking (AFP) — China's Prime Minister, Mr Zhao Ziyang, yesterday called for a virtual freeze in urban wage levels, and 10 to 20 per cent budget cuts to stem price rises threatening the success of the country's ambitious economic reforms.

"Expenditure control over credit and consumption funds in the second half — and especially the last quarter of 1984 — together with the influence of such unhealthy practices as arbitrary price rises have led to a rise in the prices of some commodities," he said. Failure to correct such problems could cause the leadership to forfeit the trust of the masses.

Mr Zhao's speech at the opening session of the National People's Congress in the Great Hall of the People dealt almost exclusively with domestic economic issues and made only passing reference to foreign affairs.

Emphasizing the accomplishments of economic reforms begun in 1978, including a 14.2 per cent growth last year in agricultural and industrial output, the Prime Minister devoted more than an hour of his 90-minute speech to a detailed focus on problems raised by the reforms.

Although he did not mention the terms "inflation" or "retrenchment," which Chinese

PROGRESS REPORT

Economic details provided by Mr Zhao included (percentages are in comparison to 1983): Farm and industrial production: Up 14.2 per cent.

State revenues: Up 12 per cent.

Grain: Up 5.1 per cent.

Cotton: Up 31.1 per cent.

Cash: Up 8 per cent.

Oil: Up 8 per cent.

Foreign capital invested: 35.7 per cent.

Wages: Up 46 per cent during the last quarter.

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Prostitutes march to prevent eviction

From Our Correspondent Paris

Yesterday's demonstration in Paris was small but more newsworthy than usual. A group of nearly 100 prostitutes who normally walk the Rue Saint-Denis gathered instead near another well-known Parisian scene, the majestic Place de la Concorde. Dressed informally and sporting masks over their faces to protect their anonymity, they planned to march right up to the Elysée Palace, where the President of the Republic and his ministers were meeting.

However, the authorities are skilful at foiling marches on the Elysée Palace, and that was the fate of the prostitutes. The march was banned. That didn't trouble the girls too much, though, for they had ample opportunity to make their case in the Parisian press and also at a meeting yesterday of three of their representatives with a member of the prime minister's staff.

The cause of all this commotion is M Alain Dumait, the mayor of the Second Arrondissement, which includes the Rue Saint-Denis. For two years he has waged a verbal battle against the street-walkers, who he says have quadrupled in his arrondissement in the past year and now number 2,000. M Dumait's talk turned into action last December and January with the boarding up of 24 of the flats

where the prostitutes take their clients. Although this represents a small percentage of the estimated 350 flats they use, the threat of more closures

galvanized the women into action. M Dumait denies that he is inspired by ideas of morality, and insists that he is only trying to protect the residents of the neighbourhood. There is no law in France specifically banning prostitution, only laws against pimping and pimping.



This street is not for walking: protesting prostitutes, wearing masks to hide their identity, are foiled in their attempt to march yesterday to President Mitterrand's palace.

Austerity package for Danes on strike

From Christopher Follett Copenhagen

Mr Poul Schlüter, the Conservative Prime Minister of Denmark, yesterday unveiled emergency legislation to try to end the five-day-old strike in the private sector which affects 300,000 workers and is gradually crippling the country.

The legislation, which will have its first reading in Parliament today, is part of an eight-point austerity package designed to curb Denmark's imports and to scotch its growing balance of payments deficit, currently about £1.25 billion.

The Bill, which the centre-right minority government has negotiated with its ally on economic affairs, the small Radical Liberal party, imposes maximum pay increases of 2 per cent this year and about 1.5 per cent for 1986. Inflation is now about 5 per cent.

The legislation follows the failure last week of the trade unions and the employers' federation to agree on a new two-year collective wage agreement, sparking the country's most harsh labour conflict in 12 years.

The package — already christened the government's Easter egg to the Danish population — is estimated to receive its third and final reading by Saturday, ending the strike on Palm Sunday.

Peking gets round table again with Moscow

Peking (Reuters) — China and the Soviet Union will resume talks next month on ways of improving political relations it was announced here yesterday. The Foreign Ministry said the sixth round of the discussions, begun in October 1982, would start in Moscow on April 9.

Since the fifth round of talks late last year — when the Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister, Mr Qian Qichen, met the Soviet deputy foreign minister, Mr Leonid Ilyichov — there have been signs that the two sides have decided to work towards healing the rift between them, which has spanned two decades.

News that Sino-Soviet trade was to rise sharply this year was followed by agreement on a trade pact to run until 1990. Then last December Peking played host to the Soviet Vice-Premier, Mr Ivan Arkhipov, the highest-ranking Soviet official to visit China since the 1960s.

This month there was a flurry of goodwill gestures when President Chernenko died and was succeeded by Mr Mikhail Gorbachev. China hailed progress in Sino-Soviet ties during Mr Chernenko's brief period in office and signalled its interest

in further improvement by sending the influential Vice-Premier, Mr Li Peng, to his funeral.

Mr Li, singled out by Mr Gorbachev for a warm reception in Moscow, handed a congratulatory message to the new Soviet leader from Chinese party head, Mr Hu Yaobang, although the two parties do not have official ties. Back in Peking, Mr Li told reporters his meeting with Mr Gorbachev was positive and friendly and said Sino-Soviet relations would improve step by step.

Western diplomats in the Chinese capital sense an important shift in the attitude of Chinese leaders towards better relations with Moscow.

The diplomats say there still remain the three obstacles Peking has long identified as blocking progress towards normal relations with Moscow, but they are less stridently stated these days.

China usually identifies the obstacles as Soviet troop concentration along its borders, the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and Moscow's continuing support for the Vietnamese occupation of Kampuchea.

Mutiny boat heads for home

Kansan, South Korea, (Reuters, AP) — A Chinese torpedo boat and its 13 surviving crew left here last night for home ahead of schedule despite strong Taiwanese protests, government officials said.

The 40-tonne high-speed boat was being towed by South Korean patrol vessels, which were to hand it over to Chinese ships in the Yellow Sea midway between the two countries. The handover was expected early today.

South Korean officials earlier said the boat would leave this port, 110 miles from Seoul, late yesterday instead of early today because of improved weather in the Yellow Sea. Rough seas off Kansan had allegedly forced a delay in the handover.

The Chinese boat was towed into Kansan last weekend after a fight on board in which six of the 19 crew were shot dead and two wounded.

Two sailors identified as having staged the mutiny were reported earlier yesterday to have been separated from other crew members for "security reasons".

The torpedo boat drifted into the South Korean waters at the weekend it was first taken in tow by a Korean fishing boat.

Although there were unofficial reports that an attempt by some crew members to defect to Taiwan might have been involved in the mutiny, the South Korean Government said on Saturday that no political motive was found.

Inquest into Zimbabwe killings

From Jan Raath Harare

Inquests into the deaths of nine civilians in Zimbabwe's troubled province of Matabeleland, killed apparently by government troops, are being heard in Bulawayo.

It is the first time the courts have dealt with anything more than isolated atrocities against Matabeleland civilians in three years of guerrilla unrest.

The inquests deal with incidents ranging from six months ago to as recently as January.

On Tuesday Mr George Romilly, the Matabeleland provincial magistrate, postponed an inquiry into the death in January last year of a man police say confessed to being a "dissident".

The day after his arrest, he was found on his knees and hanging from a beam in his cell in Bulawayo. His body had multiple injuries.

Bullet wounds on the bodies of two other men shot in January in rural Matabeleland show powder burns, indicating that they were shot at close range. Police say they were trying to escape.

Yesterday Mr Romilly began hearing evidence in the case of a 65-year-old man shot while he herded cattle during the dusk-to-dawn curfew that lasted from February to September last year in Matabeleland South. The court heard that he was shot well after sunrise.

East Africans to revive three-way cooperation

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

Ministers from Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda have agreed that they should work out new systems of cooperation in transport and scientific research, tourism and scientific research.

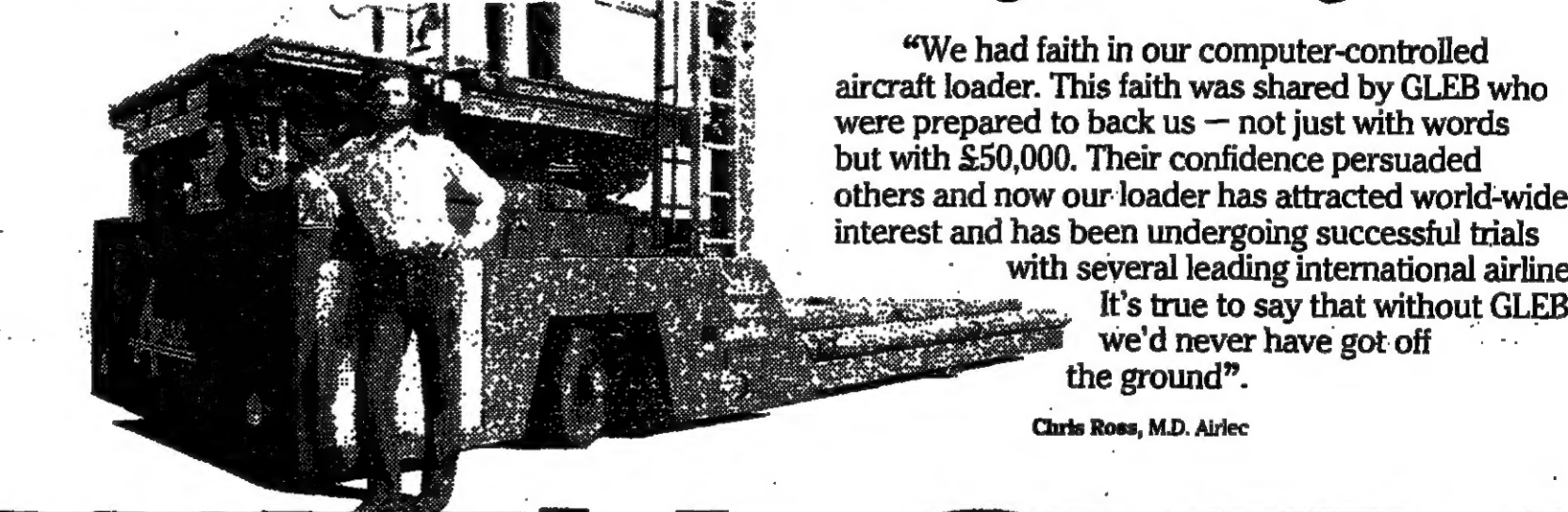
This is a first step towards a revival of the joint projects that were abandoned when the East African Community created by the three countries was dissolved in 1977 after a troubled 10-year existence.

The decision to work together

was reached this week at a two-day meeting in Arusha, northern Tanzania, to consider the progress already made in sharing out the assets and liabilities of the former community. The three countries are however stopping well short of trying to revive the common market that existed up to 1977.

They are being pressed by the EEC to agree on joint development projects that could qualify for European aid.

"Without GLEB we'd never have got off the ground"



"We had faith in our computer-controlled aircraft loader. This faith was shared by GLEB who were prepared to back us — not just with words but with £50,000. Their confidence persuaded others and now our loader has attracted world-wide interest and has been undergoing successful trials with several leading international airlines. It's true to say that without GLEB we'd never have got off the ground".

Chris Ross, M.D. Airlec

What is GLEB?



"You could say GLEB bound us together"

"We had just come back from our Xmas break when the collapse was announced. Suddenly, a 200 year old tradition in bookbinding was over and we were on our own. We'd read about GLEB in a union journal, so we put together a rescue plan and went to see them.

Our main assets were 42 skilled workers and the goodwill of our customers. GLEB provided extra finance and with the union helped us develop a new style of management. Now we all have a stake in the company and we haven't looked back. You could say GLEB bound us together, saved our jobs and kept alive one of London's oldest craft industries".

Tony Winwright, Jnt. M.D. Standard Bookbinding

"GLEB provided the perfect recipe for growth"

"We started off in 1977 using all my own recipes. At that time it was mainly Eastern snacks that appealed to the ethnic population. But as our popularity grew, so did we, and we desperately needed more room. GLEB helped us with a £150,000 loan that will mean more jobs and purpose-built premises — the perfect recipe for growth".



Mrs. Manju Karia, M.D. Binisa Foods

"We had the capacity — GLEB provided the rest"



"When GLEB acquired recession-hit T.R. Creighton they not only saved the last foundry in London — they saved 75 jobs. Now through an expansionist programme financed by the Boroughs of Barking and Dagenham, and vigorous marketing, we can provide more jobs and take our place as a force in heavy ferrous and lighter non-ferrous casting. We always had the capacity — GLEB provided the rest".

Tony Brookes, M.D. Essex Foundry

"The EEC put its money behind this GLEB high-tech scheme"

"Women have been ignored for too long in the world of information technology. That's why the GLEB launched this training course for women microelectronic technicians, based at the London New Technology Network in Camden. The EEC saw the scheme's value for women and joined the Greater London Training Board in providing financial backing".



Joy Tasker, Course Instructor

"With GLEB's help we can now win a whole new range of contracts"



"We had more print orders than we could cope with. Our turnover had increased five fold in 3 years, but most Banks are simply not interested in providing the sort of development capital that co-ops need. Luckily, GLEB have a less blinkered, longer term view. Their loan of £200,000 meant we could install a four-colour press, treble our workforce and win a whole new range of contracts".

Tom Reed, Administrator, Lithosphere

"We're working for ourselves. It's a marvellous feeling"

"When our previous employer moved to Crawley, 100 of us couldn't move home. That meant redundancy. Then the GLEB acquired the 2.5 acre site — and saved our jobs. The new London Production Centre will provide units for London's electronics industry. That will mean 400 jobs when the space is let. Now we are working here in new companies the GLEB has set up through London Production Centre Ltd. And, through a workers' trust, we share in running them. It's a marvellous feeling. We can really achieve something for ourselves, and we are doing our best to make it work".



Irv Crook, Production Worker, London Production Centre

GLEB - putting the life back into London's industry

The Greater London Enterprise Board is the GLC's industrial development agency. For further details contact: GLEB Information, 63-67 Newington Causeway, London SE1 6BD

WHEN SIR STAMFORD RAFFLES LANDED IN SINGAPORE THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WAS ALL IN FAVOUR OF FREE TRADE.

NOW GOH MUI JONG WANTS TO LAND IN MANCHESTER, IS THE FEELING DIFFERENT?

When Sir Stamford Raffles founded Singapore, the British Government was keen to trade freely anywhere in the world.

The same philosophy has been adopted by the present British Government. And it is very much Singapore Airlines' standpoint as it argues a case for Manchester services.

The story so far.

The existing Air Services Agreement between the United Kingdom and Singapore does not lay down the number of services to be operated.

It leaves the airlines themselves to decide how many services to provide, in the light of their own commercial judgement. But the British Government has imposed restrictions on us. We are only allowed to operate one service a day into Heathrow.

In February 1983 and again in September 1984, Singapore Airlines applied to start a new route to Manchester. The Department of Transport agreed to this, but only on condition that SIA's services to Heathrow were reduced.

The British Government knows, just as other airlines know, that anything less than a daily service on this increasingly popular route will not make commercial sense. So the Government's response is tantamount to a 'No' to Manchester.

Why has the Government said 'No'?

1. Does it think there is insufficient traffic to justify extra services?

Since 1976, when daily frequencies with B747's began, passenger traffic has grown from 173,000 to over 300,000 - up 73%. In the same period cargo has grown 145%. Yet, there has been no increase in either BA's or SIA's services during this period.

2. Could it be that it doubts our commercial judgement? Is it worried that we will lose money?

Our track record speaks for itself. Furthermore, Mr Spicer, the Aviation Minister, has said recently that airlines should be encouraged to back their own commercial judgement. This is precisely what we want to do.

3. Does the Government think SIA has an unfair advantage?

SIA has never received a single dollar in subsidy. This has been acknowledged in Parliament by Mr Spicer himself.

4. Does the Government want to protect British Airways?

Lord King himself has always said

that BA welcomes competition. We ourselves would be happy for a British airline to compete with us on the route.

Is it commercially viable to serve Manchester?

1. Manchester is an International Gateway Airport. It serves 20 million people in an area that supports 60% of the UK's manufacturing industry.

2. Manchester Airport Authority estimates that in the first year there would be 19,000 outbound passengers to Singapore, and a further 19,000 going beyond. There would be considerable inbound traffic as well.

3. SIA does not start new services unless it is totally satisfied that they are commercially viable.

4. That is why the company has made a profit in every single year since it started in 1972. It is now one of the world's largest international airlines, although it comes from a country the size of the Isle of Wight.

How does this fit in with the Government's position?

The recent white paper on Airline Competition Policy declared 'the barriers to new services and airlines who can provide a safe and reliable service should be low... Only competition will ensure the flow of innovative ideas, and new management and marketing methods.'

Surely, what we are doing is exactly what Mrs Thatcher would applaud.

Manchester is keen to welcome us.

Britain is Singapore's largest trading partner in Europe. For all the benefits of international trade, increased employment and tourism, the Manchester Airport Authority is keen to welcome us. And certainly it would ease congestion at Heathrow.

People in the North will also appreciate the gentle grace and style of Singapore Girls like Goh Mui Jong who have given us the kind of inflight service that even other airlines talk about.

For all of these reasons, Singapore Airlines politely and respectfully asks Mr Nicholas Ridley to change his mind.


**SINGAPORE
AIRLINES**
A great way to fly



Manhattan transfer

How does he think of us?" mused Ved Mehta, the distinguished Indian writer, in his tiny, monkish cell at The New Yorker magazine. "Does he see us as a Rembrandt, something to treasure?"

The New Yorker, the idiosyncratic haven for writers of style and wit, is being sold to publishing tycoon Samuel I. Newhouse, junior. In the closed and cloistered world of this most extraordinary cultural institution, it seems an earthquake.

Mr Mehta's office is cramped. He works at a simple wooden table, the paint is peeling and the furniture battered. The New Yorker is not housed in a glamorous Manhattan office block, with gleaming pot plants and glittering secretaries. The editorial reception area verges on the seedy, and its black leather sofa has seen better days.

Mr Mehta shows some of the apprehension that now permeates the cloistered, college atmosphere at the magazine. Other publications may have regular shake-ups, but not The New Yorker. It has been in the hands of one family for all of its 60 years, and the present editor is only the second in its history.

"People are worried and rather depressed," said Mr Mehta. "They wonder whether the new owner will want to bring change, or as I say, preserve us like a painting."

Mr Newhouse heads a huge publishing empire, this includes America's third largest chain of newspapers, Condé Nast Magazines (which owns Vogue, Vanity Fair and House and Garden), and book publishers Random House. He has paid a generous \$142 million for The New Yorker.

"You will see why there is concern," said Mr Mehta. "Mr Newhouse has promised not to change anything. He says he will guarantee the magazine's independence, and we are hoping that he will keep to that."

"If he tries to make The New Yorker chic and fashion conscious, it will disintegrate. In some places, writers are treated like stocks and shares, one day riding high, the next day falling. You cannot do that here."

"It is the perfect environment for a writer, a mini-university. In 1959, I submitted a long article about my return to India after a 10-year absence, and it was accepted. Two years later, I joined the staff. Once you have been accepted, and become one of the family, you are left alone."

"If you encounter a dry period, say for five or six years, you are not harassed, nobody worries you. If you are asked to edit a piece on a subject that does not interest you, you can say that you do not want to do it, because the subject is not congenial to you, and nobody will take it amiss. If a writer is not popular with the public, and nobody is reading his books, it will not matter. The New Yorker will still encourage and support him."

The Times Profile: The New Yorker

CHRONOLOGY

- 1925: February 21. First issue of The New Yorker. Edited by Harold Ross, with Eustace Tilley on the cover.
- 1946: August 31. Publication of John Hersey's article on Hiroshima, which caused a sensation.
- 1951: December. Death of Harold Ross, aged 59.
- 1952: January 21. William Shawn appointed editor.
- 1976: March 29. Saul Steinberg's famous illustration of New York as centre of world on cover. Made into a poster, it was immensely popular.
- 1984: November. Samuel I. Newhouse, jun, purchases 17 per cent of The New Yorker's stock for almost \$25m.
- 1985: March 8. The directors announced unanimous vote to approve Mr Newhouse's offer to buy the remaining 83 per cent for \$142m.

This remarkable world is benignly held together by the very private, and elaborately polite, editor, William Shawn who is always Mr Shawn to his intensely loyal staff.

Over tea in his office, writers suggest articles they would like to tackle, and if he agrees they are then left alone. Mr Shawn does not ask for a specific number of words, nor does he say when he would like to see the copy.

There are none of the usual journalistic tensions at The New Yorker. No competition, commercial pressures, nor men in green eyeshades. Mr Shawn has never held an editorial conference, but he does have a weekly art meeting when he chooses the cartoons, which are of a consistently high standard.

Each week, out of this clannish and deceptively amateur little world, emerges an urbane magazine of short stories, articles, drawings, commentary and criticism. It is extremely successful, with a steady circulation of \$50,000 and showed a profit of about \$5.6 million last year.

Since the editor always made the decisions, the staff were shocked to realize that he had not been consulted about the recent sale of the magazine. He walked down from his office (he has lifts) and read the sale announcement to his staff in a trembling voice. "No wonder he was so unhappy," said one writer. "They had gone over his head. He had to keep stopping as he read the



Cover stories: The famous and still used original, and Steinberg's view of New York

announcement because he was so upset. We were all fearful."

After making the announcement, Mr Shawn added: "The editorial staff was not a party to the negotiations. We were not asked for our approval, and we did not give our approval."

"But," says Calvin Trillin, a writer who joined the staff 22 years ago, "I think we have to trust Newhouse, to assume that he will keep his promise of non-interference. The magazine has always been owned by the Fleischmann family and any change is bound to cause a big noise. It is natural that people are edgy, but I think we have to be optimistic."

"The New Yorker is unique. Look at our shabby office. You would have to search hard to find an electric typewriter. Someone once said that the place looks like the branch office of a failing insurance company. But then consider the checking department: no expense is spared to make certain that everything is correct. If, for instance, a fact could not be checked by a telephone call to France, then someone would fly there to do it."

The writers are generously paid (about one dollar per word) and some articles run to more than twenty or thirty thousand words. Staff writers, who have modest offices in the building, sign contracts which are worth a nominal \$1,000 a year, in which they agree to produce something, sometime, for the magazine. They are paid when articles are accepted.

In 1961, John Updike, the novelist, wrote a piece about the use of inverted commas. He was paid and the article appeared in 1982, 21 years, three months and a day after it was written.

Steeped in tradition, legend and mystery, The New Yorker has not changed much since the first issue of February 21, 1925, when a foppish, top-hatted fellow called Eustace Tilley adorned the cover. Tilley is examin-



Making news: Mr. Shawn (left) and new owner S.I. Newhouse

ing a butterfly through his monocle, and every February, on the Monday which falls closest to the inaugural date, the magazine prints the Tilley cover.

"The New Yorker was the outstanding flop of 1925, a year of memorable successes in literature, music and entertainment, and the only flop that kept on going," wrote James Thurber, in his affectionate portrait of Harold Ross, the first editor. "From an original run-off of 15,000 copies in February, its circulation fell to a pernicious apoplexy low of 2,700 copies in August."

One evening during that summer, Harold Ross met Dorothy Parker and asked her why she had not come into the office to write a piece she had promised. "Mrs Parker turned upon him the eloquent magic of her dark and lovely eyes," Thurber wrote. "Somebody was using the pencil," she explained sorrowfully.

But Raoul Fleischmann, who had backed the magazine with profits from his yeast business, had faith in the eccentric, choleric and brilliant Ross, and it soon paid off. Ross created a sophisticated magazine, filling its pages with the work of writers like Thurber, Dorothy Parker, E. B. White, John O'Hara, and S. J. Perelman.

The roll of honour continued, and since Mr Shawn became editor at the beginning of 1952, more than 850 books have had their genesis in The New Yorker. The authors include

Rachel Carson, Vladimir Nabokov, Rebecca West, Truman Capote, Jacobo Timerman and Mary McCarthy.

In his book on Ross, James Thurber quotes Ogden Nash: "Ross was an almost impossible man to work for. Rude, ungracious, and perpetually dissatisfied with what he read - and I admire him more than anyone I have met in professional life. Only perfection was good enough for him, and on rare occasions he encountered it, he viewed it with astonished suspicion."

Ross created a whimsical and humorous magazine, but after the Second World War, it began to publish more serious articles. In 1946, on the bombing of Hiroshima, a sensation. It was William Shawn who persuaded the cautious Ross that a whole issue should be devoted to the piece. There was more praise than attack from readers, and, before long, a copy of the issue, if you could find one, cost \$25.

The New Yorker has its critics. Long-winded, boring and irrelevant, dull, arch, with articles so long that they are a test of reader endurance are among the things they say. One curmudgeon, writing in the current issue of the liberal weekly, The New Republic, attacks the magazine for its "posturing politics", and adds: "aside from that of Kim Il Sung, the cult of William Shawn is the most tedious cult of personality in the world today."

One editorial tic for which Mr Shawn is famous, is buying major articles and then not publishing them - stockpiling them instead like grain, before the advancing lean years.

It is unlikely that the red-tinted Mr. Shawn will reply to the barb. At most he might give a notice up in the office, and he did in 1969, in reply to a criticism that the magazine was "square" and out-of-date. The New Yorker isn't with it," he said. "The New Yorker is ahead of it."

Penny Symon

Laurel and Hardy in a single poet

POETRY

Robert Nye

Theodore Roethke wrote poems about "stones and pencils and weeds and God and the sadness and the glory of lost childhood. He was fascinated by movement, agility, warmth, wetness, growth. His rhythms fall naturally into dance-time, waltzing with what they mean, stamping sometimes up and down, achieving once in a while a strange dignity, a kind of whirling accidental dervish grace, like a fat man who by sheer inspiration and close attention to the pattern of the music he hears has managed to release the thin man inside him so that the thin man spins off dancing like a ghost."

Roethke's Collected Poems, available now for the first time in paperback (Faber, £4.95), contains the complete text of his seven published books as well as 16 previously uncollected poems. For all their wit and music and allusiveness - real enough pleasures - Roethke's finest poems seem to me inhabited and shaped by simplicity. He spoke himself of "the muck and wetter, the dark, the dream" of his verse, while saying that he counted himself "among the happy poets".

There is an exhilaration in him, an excitement in the face of bright colours, an exuberance in celebrating the blooming buzzing confusion of a child's world, that can as quickly give way to images of sadness, of desolation, or change and loss and regret. This mood-spectrum is most convincing where Roethke does not seek to rationalize it at all, but just thinks directly in metaphor.

It's dark in this wood, soft mackerel. For whom have I smelled like a seal? What a bone-ache I have. Father of tensions, I'm down to my skin at last.

Sylvia Plath learned a lot from lines like that. And for others than poets, Roethke has written certain lines which are immediately intelligible and memorable and likely to last as long as there are people left to care about such things:

I have known the insupportable sadness of pencils. Near in their boxes, delirious of pad and paper-weight. All the misery of manila folders...

The young English poet John Ash looks, at first sight, about as far removed from Roethke's slapdash humanism as it would be possible to imagine, but in fact the verse in his second collection The Branching Stairs (Corgi, £4.95 paperback) has

qualities of toughness and tenderness beyond its dandified wit, and above all it has an imaginative vigour which I think that Roethke would have liked. Ash concentrates a playfully profound imagination upon the whole problem of meaning and identity, and comes up with no answers, only alternative questions in the form of well-made verse which in a sense replaces the joys and anxieties which inspired it.

Now the moon is rising swiftly. We can hear the songs of the casinas. And tonight we may meet again. The one whose lost look deceived us.

There is a heady mixture of distinctive vitalities at work here, and if much of Ash's work has an impenetrable surrealistic obscurity, the moments when he breaks out of this to produce lines of uncommon memorability are the more impressive. A difficult and demanding "experimental" poet, but in my opinion as authentically original as any voice.

If Roethke always sounds nothing less than American, and John Ash as if he thought and felt in French, then it is perhaps apt to salute again the quintessential Englishness of Andrew Young, whose Poetical Works (Secker & Warburg, £12.95, £7.95 paperback), published in the centenary year of his birth, is this spring's special commendation of the Poetry Book Society. I am, of course, aware that Young was born in Scotland, but I am not referring to nationality so much as voice and tone, to the matter of being at home in a particular linguistic tradition. Young's best poems are quiet. They do not show off a personality. They just are. And, like all real poetry, this means that what they are is neither old nor new, but something seemingly remembered even the first time we read it.

If it should come to this, You cannot walk me with a stick. Think I but sleep too late. Or once again keep a cold angry stare.

That is beautiful and exact, from a poem entitled "A Prospect of Death" which is altogether a little masterpiece of plain statement of complicated feeling. Young was a minor poet - but a splendid one, within his limits.

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Former Deputy Editor of The Times

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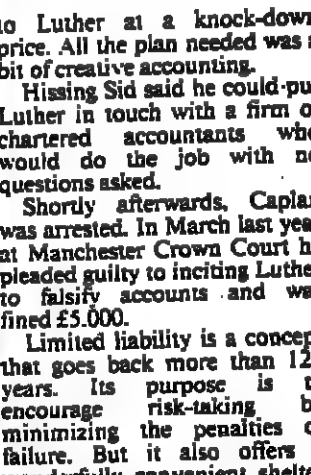
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In 1980 and 1981, Macmillan entered into contracts with QED and Quarto to publish books produced by QED and Quarto entitled Art School and Photo School. Macmillan granted hardback and paperback rights in the UK and numerous other countries, which rights were to revert to QED and Quarto if either the hardback books or the paperback books were allowed to go out of print and Macmillan failed to reprint such books within six months after notice from QED and Quarto.

QED and Quarto believed that, with the appearance of Paperback editions of both Art School and Photo School, it was the intention of Macmillan to allow hardback rights to revert to them as and when these titles went out of print. Macmillan requested reprints of both Paperback editions in early 1983 and Quarto and QED coincidentally arranged for reprints of the US hardback editions. In anticipation of the reversion of Macmillan's hardback rights in the UK and other countries, but without referring to Macmillan, Quarto and QED also entered into a contract with Atlas for the distribution in the UK of the US hardback editions of both books. Atlas agreed not to sell copies in the UK until the reversion of rights had taken place and, if the reversion of rights did not take place, to store the copies printed with the US imprint for subsequent sale to the USA.

In August 1983, Macmillan received notice that booksellers in Britain were selling copies of the US hardback editions ("the offending copies") at prices which considerably undercut Macmillan's hardback and paperback editions. A protest was made to QED and Quarto, who failed to admit that they were the ultimate source of the offending copies, but nevertheless gave an assurance that the incident would not be repeated. In October 1983, a similar incident occurred and Macmillan once again protested to QED and Quarto. In response to this, QED and Quarto sent to Macmillan a copy of a letter from Atlas stating that the offending copies sold by them in the UK were damaged books purchased from the USA, and repeating the assurance previously given. However, following a meeting in December 1983, QED and Quarto admitted to Macmillan that they were the ultimate source of the offending copies and agreed to instruct Atlas to cease selling such copies and, in so far as possible, to recall those already sold. Despite this, further offending copies were supplied to British bookshops by Atlas and an injunction was sought by Macmillan to restrain further sales of such copies. Even after the injunction was granted some further offending copies were sold by Atlas in Britain.

QED and Quarto accepted that they should have ensured that they did not infringe Macmillan's contractual publishing rights, which rights were confirmed by their own undertaking and by the injunction granted against Atlas. Atlas accepts that they should not have supplied the offending copies to British bookshops and that they will abide by the injunction granted against them. Damages and costs have been paid by QED, Quarto and Atlas to Macmillan.



The Sting: Amrik Luther (left) and 'Hissing Sid' Caplan

course of which the agent said: "What's the matter? Are you hard up or something?"

"Who isn't?" Luther replied. "In that case I think I know somebody who can help you. His name is Caplan and he is as hot as mustard."

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Luther's companies provided a near-perfect vehicle for fraud. Chase Musicians Ltd was the company in trouble as its debts exceeded its assets by some £46,000. Chase Consultants Ltd, on the other hand, was reasonably healthy with a positive balance of some £70,000.

As the two companies had such similar names (and Chase Musicians Ltd was trading as Chase Musicians, although a separate entity from Chase Musicians Ltd), invoices from suppliers were often so unclear that it was next to impossible for an outsider to tell which belonged to what company.

Caplan's plan was simplicity itself. He proposed a straightforward swap of assets and liabilities. Thus the bulk of Chase Musicians Ltd's liabilities (the ambiguous invoices and the £50,000 loan, to be described as a fictitious "management fee"), would be transferred to Chase Consultants Ltd's balance sheet, while the majority of £500,000 stock and other assets would be switched from Consultants Ltd. to Musicians Ltd.

Over night, Musicians Ltd would be transferred from being a very sick company into a healthy one and Consultants Ltd would be an instant candidate for liquidation. The company would not be stripped entirely bare: there would be enough money to pay off the bank and preferred creditors, but nothing left for the unsecured.

Caplan also suggested that he would arrange for those assets not already transferred to Musicians Ltd to be sold back

to Luther at a knock-down price. All the plan needed was a bit of creative accounting.

Hissing Sid said he could put Luther in touch with a firm of chartered accountants who would do the job with no questions asked.

Shortly afterwards, Caplan was arrested. In March last year at Manchester Crown Court he pleaded guilty to inciting Luther to falsify accounts and was fined £5,000.

Limited liability is a concept that goes back more than 120 years. Its purpose is to encourage risk-taking by minimizing the penalties of failure. But it also offers a wonderfully convenient shelter for the crooked, the unscrupulous or the merely sharp, who have invented a practice known as "change the name, the game's the same". It is very common, quite legal and works like this.

A firm is put into voluntary liquidation. A liquidator tidies up the company's affairs. The assets are sold off, but very often they are sold back at knock-down prices to the original owner, who then simply changes the name of his company and opens up again, sometimes the very next day. The dismayed creditors are left to contemplate the wreckage.

Sir Kenneth Cork, the distinguished accountant and insolvency expert, is also the author of the Cork Report on bankruptcy, which took five and a half years to write and runs to more than 250,000 words.

Sir Kenneth wrote: "The answers given by British law today... do not seem to us, or to many of those who gave evidence to us, to be in tune with modern needs, but responses to economic conditions and attitudes prevalent more than 100 years ago."

Now the Government proposes to stamp out the worst abuses of new legislation, but many of the more far-reaching reforms of the Cork Report have been ignored because Sir Kenneth believes it would take a full Parliamentary session to implement the whole report.

*Insolvency Law and Practice. Report of the Review Committee.

Adapted by H. J. Weaver from Going Bust, by Stephen Aris, to be published by Andre Deutsch Ltd, on April 25, price £8.95.

BANKRUPTCY PART 3

In the final part of our series, Stephen Aris looks at the unscrupulous liquidators who ride roughshod over Britain's insolvency law

If receivers are the aristocrats of the profession, liquidators are the journeymen. For many companies receivership is not necessarily the end of the road, but liquidation is invariably terminal.

The liquidator arrives when all hope has gone, and his job is simply to wind up the company and distribute whatever assets remain. Sometimes the receiver has been there before him, in which case the pickings are usually slim. Where the company has gone straight into liquidation, the job can be more rewarding.

The technicalities of liquidation are, however, formidable

and baffling: a jungle through which the unscrupulous have learned to cut some very profitable paths. "There is a Mafia-like web of cavalier insolvency practitioners in Britain," said Bernard Phillips, outgoing chairman of the Insolvency Practitioners' Association, which was set up largely to control the con-voys.

"These bounders milk the owners of companies and the creditors, and have blackened the name of insolvency practice." Liquidation can be a highly profitable business, even for the most scrupulous, but the cowboys charge all along the line.

There is the initial "consultation" fee, which can be as much as £1,000; the fee for preparing the statement of affairs; the standard percentage charge on assets realized; and finally, very often, a backhander from the directors, who have bought back the assets at a knock-down price.

The game does not necessarily stop there. Although new government legislation proposes a change in the current law, anyone has been able to set up as a receiver or liquidator provided he was not himself a bankrupt or otherwise disqualified from being able to serve as a director of a company. Frequently the rogue liquidator will grab the assets within hours of his appointment and sell

them at a notional price to nominee companies, controlled by himself or his friends.

This is a very crude manoeuvre. Many of the cowboys now employ much more sophisticated techniques. They have become experts in the art of shuffling debts and assets to enable seemingly bankrupt companies to rise phoenix-like from the ashes to everyone's advantage, save the creditors.

"We know the insolvency laws backwards," Maurice Sidney Caplan, better known as "Hissing Sid", told The Sunday Times in 1981. "They are so loose... we can drive a coach and horses through them."

To see him at his most ingenious we need to look at the case of the vanishing organs. The story starts in 1981 when Amrik Singh Luther, an Indian entrepreneur from Manchester, ran into difficulties. For some years, through a company called Chase Consultants Ltd, he had been selling a whole range of synthesizers, organs, guitars and other musical equipment. At the height of his fortunes he had a turnover of more than £1m.

Luther claims, however, that he was prevented from acting for major manufacturers like Yamaha because of opposition from his competitors. In 1979, in an attempt to break into the big time, Luther signed up with an American company, ARP Synthesizers, to become its British distributor.

A new company, Chase Musicians Ltd, was set up for this purpose, but in practice a lot of the business was handled by the original company, Chase Consultants Ltd, which, to confuse the issue further, actually traded as Chase Musicians. Quite properly, however, separate accounts were kept for the two limited companies.

Hissing Sid's opportunity came in the spring of 1982. ARP, the American firm, had gone bust the previous year, leaving Chase Musicians Ltd high and dry. To drum up the business, Luther borrowed £50,000 from his other company, Chase Consultants Ltd, to purchase organs. He bought a consignment from a company called Trevor Daniels, which collapsed shortly afterwards and called in Hissing Sid as liquidator.

It was not long before Luther was presented by Sid's agent with a bill for £16,935. A lively argument followed, in the



The Sting: Amrik Luther (left) and 'Hissing Sid' Caplan

course of which the agent said: "What's the matter? Are you hard up or something?"

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CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 606)

- ACROSS
- 8 Yugoslav lang (5,8)
- 9 Raced (3)
- 10 Party declaration (9)
- 11 Seam (5)
- 12 Clergy pay (7)
- 13 Intimate view (5,2)
- 14 Thick cord (3)
- 22 Moderator (5)
- 24 Foolish talk (3)
- 25 Emotionless (13)

- DOWN
- 1 Sturdy (6)
- 2 Eccentric (6)
- 3 Trade (8)
- 4 Cargo hoists (6)
- 5 Stray child (4)
- 6 Thin web (6)
- 7 Countless (6)
- 12 Totality (3)
- 14 Internal phone (8)
- 15 Sister (3)
- 16 Light play (6)
- 17 Thick (6)
- 18 Potassium carbonate (6)
- 20 Enrichment (6)
- 21 One or other (6)
- 23 Chew over (4)

SOLUTION TO No 605

- ACROSS: 1 Sea dog 4 Gabbie 7 Coax 8 Anatolia 9 Falsely 13 Bye 16 Succes d'estime 17 Eve 19 Throttle 24 Intaglio 25 Many 26 Impede 27 Rustie
- DOWN: 1 Sect 2 Avalanche 3 Glade 4 Graft 5 Boom 6 Laity 10 Steer 11 Tudor 12 Onset 13 Brilliant 14 Ewer 15 Isle 18 Venom 20 Halve 21 Odour 22 Hate 23 Sync

BOOKS II

The private lives of wild artists

Someone - I think it was a poet called Byatt - observed that reading a work in translation was like kissing a beautiful woman with a handkerchief over her face. Isidore de Saint Pierre, by all accounts a beautiful French novelist, is further hampered in that the subject of her fiction is an Englishman with a cleft palate - the deranged Victorian painter Richard Dadd.

Saint Pierre's diary of this madman is a brave but exhaustingly lush work of imagination. From his dark asylum - a Broadmoor cell - Dadd remembers his early life and, most insistently, a journey to the Middle East with his presumed lover Sir Thomas Phillips. Touched by Egypt's tombs and mysteries, it was as if Dadd drank from some stagnant spring which made him believe he was "the son of Osiris, the mad god". Full-blooded visions follow of Isidore straddling the dead Osiris, but Dadd only really sets the gas cooking when following the commands of Osiris, he takes his unsuspecting father to a park in Cobham and murders him.

Saint Pierre never lets us forget the same hand that cuts throats paints gossamer wings on fairies. Despite a sometimes slobbering translation, she does convince us of his mental state and make us bear with it. She captures both the painter's promiscuous eye for detail and the madman's monstrous sensitivity. One cannot help the feeling however that Dadd's derangement is often an excuse for the author to indulge in her own overripe obsessions, and that had her poetic licence been taken away she would have written an even better book.

Out of the Blue also deals with an elderly fabricating painter, John Milne's first two novels were properly noticed for being a little bit different. His third similarly sparkles in some of its writing and conception, but like a firefly it seems to illuminate its own originality, not anything else.

It is the story of an avant-garde artist, Paul Brown, who has propelled himself through life on "a stupid, lying sense of humour". As he comes from his Munich studio to open a retrospective show in London, two people try to piece his life together: the narrator - a novelist who wishes he could paint and who meets him on three occasions - and a severe woman who travels beside him trying vainly to write his biography.

Popping about the tiresomely rambly Brown are sinister murders, burglaries, and threats of a neo-Nazi insurrection in

FICTION

Nicholas Shakespeare

RICHARD DADD - HIS JOURNALS
By Isidore de Saint Pierre
Translated by Dominic di Bernardi and Noelle Domke
Aidan Ellis, £9.50OUT OF THE BLUE
By John Milne
Hamish Hamilton, £8.95THE FINISHING SCHOOL
By Gail Godwin
Heinemann, £9.95

Bavaria. Masquerading as something exciting, his life, his art, and in the end the novel which describes them are all rather inconsequential. It is as if the author is using his fictional gifts to piece together the truth of something which actually happened to him, to sort out a private jigsaw puzzle rather than a more universal dilemma.

The American novelist Gail Godwin presents us with the dilemma of the Go-Between. Her Finishing School is a very real woodshed - a hut by a pool - in which what is seen by two little girls violently alters their lives. Justin Stokes is a middle-aged actress who looks back to the summer when 14-year-old she suddenly came upon a middle-aged former actress. The woman, Ursula de Vane, is an exotic outsider to Justin's village and though she once played Goneril at RADA, a greater role lies in store. She is to claim "a permanent place in the theatre of my unconscious".

Ursula is devoting herself to the triumphant comeback of her brother - a dedicated pianist who once got a wonderful review in Argentina. She inspires the androgynous Justin to an adolescent pitch of friendship. She confesses how she revealed her mother's affair in this hut with a music teacher. By the end, "with appalling similarities", Justin has betrayed Ursula.

Ursula, always with basil and lilacs in her hand, does come to life as a woman first mysterious, then human - then pathetic. Gail Godwin pulls out all the stops to tell her story which like an overlarge church organ wheezes and shudders to a rather exaggerated pitch. Some of the stops - economy of writing, avoidance of cliché, use of understatement - are noticeably dicky. "And having gone through the stage of adoring her, despising her and forgiving her," moans Justin deliciously, "maybe I am finally ready to forgive myself."

Down and out in the sound archives

Woodrow Wyatt

ORWELL: THE WAR BROADCASTS
Edited by W. J. West
Duckworth/BBC Publications, £12.95

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ROBERT HALE

The first thing to say about this book is that it is not a history of World War Two - not in the sense that it makes any attempt to cover the war comprehensively, or even to give a full account of American military operations. Studs Terkel has many fans, most of whom I suspect would say, on reading the previous sentence, that I have completely missed the point. This is an oral history - so it is naturally not interested in the details of strategy, diplomacy and so forth, which form the traditional sphere of historical interest. An oral history talks to the privates rather than the generals. It focuses on what the war was like, for Joe Soap, and his wife at home, and the child who grew up in the knowledge that his father was away, and their Japanese-American neighbours who were interned after Pearl Harbour. The people who have not yet had their say.

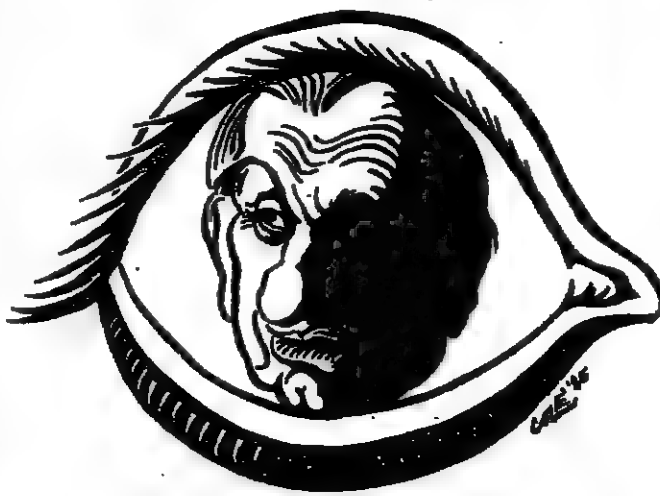
To which one might reply that this approach, while it might legitimately be called popular, is not essentially oral. There is, concealed behind the business of orality, a negative definition which one might as well bring out into the open: the generals have had their say elsewhere, they are not going to be allowed it here. True there are some famous and influential figures interviewed: Galbraith, for instance, savagely provocative as ever "in the war years, consumption of consumer goods doubled. Never in the history of human conflict has there been so much talk of sacrifice and so little sacrifice". But Galbraith is here, one feels, for unstated political reasons. He is representing the good guys in economic thought, the "unsung heroes" such as Leon Henderson, one of the War Production Board.

There has been an enormous literature on Albert Speer and the way he was presumed to have organized the production of the V-2 rockets. Henderson... organized the United States for more effectively than Germany ever had been. The man whose organization failed is celebrated, while the man who had in mind national venture is lost to history.

Oral history is very much concerned with unsung heroes. The material is presented in the form of interviews, with a minimum of biographical information and comment, and with a minimum of interviewer's

James Fenton reviews the privates' eye view of the latest world earthquake

Heroes who never have spoken yet

THE GOOD WAR
An Oral History of World War Two
By Studs Terkel
Hamish Hamilton, £12.95

questions left in the transcript. This is seen as a virtue in Mr Terkel - he lets the other guy get on with the talking. And yet there are times when you feel that he should have intervened with some tough questions. Here is a German politician, Erich Luth, talking about his war years:

I have been a soldier. It was safer than being a suspected civilian. I refused to become an officer. I took a personal oath. I would not shoot against those who fought Hitler. The Allies shot against me, but I could not shoot back. In this respect, I was perhaps a bad German. I did not want to enter a decoration with a swastika on it.

Without wishing to question the truth of this account, I have to

hear this he goes gooey. Oral history is keen on goodness.

What then are the strengths of this book? Quite the best things are the interviews with black Americans, which are both vigorous in tone and vivid in the portrait they paint of race relations at the time. It proved impossible for the military authorities both to enlist black soldiers and to treat them as anything but second-class citizens. Although this line of approach was attempted, blacks have not forgotten that in for instance Richmond one would see German prisoners of war riding in the front of streetcars, with blacks in the back, that the prisoners and blacks shared separate messlines from the whites, and that camp entertainments were segregated. The war appears to have initiated the Civil Rights movement and blacks in the back, that the prisoners and blacks shared separate messlines from the whites, and that camp entertainments were segregated. The war appears to have initiated the Civil Rights movement and blacks in the back, that the prisoners and blacks shared separate messlines from the whites, and that camp entertainments were segregated.

Here is a man who learnt to read at 27, going dippy, at the consequences:

Imagine, Major Sloan! Would you believe that he insisted I study the British Wood Rents and explain it to the troops? I, who could hardly read. See the boy run. The cat jumped the fence. How can I ever forget this experience and this man.

There's a marvelous little account of the black tank battalion, the 6888 Central Postal Directory, that Negroes were incapable of being tankers, the equipment being too technical. In 1944 he requested the best separate battalion they had left in the States, and was sent the 6888. And the speaker goes on to detail with pride the achievements of his battalion.

The accounts of combat do not absolutely dominate the book. You get a strong sense of the Pacific War and the Normandy landings, together with much about the defeat of Germany. But the book's true subject is America - what happened to that ethnically various society and how it has changed since. Such themes and lines of argument as there are have to be deduced by the reader from material which is often diffuse and repetitive. Still, there it is, recorded and set down - at its best, terrific; all of it worth having.

When Herr Luth says "I was perhaps a bad German" he means "I was perhaps a Good German." When Mr Terkel

Cheap frills and jaunty old buffers

THRILLERS
Tim HealdFIELD OF BLOOD
By Gerald Seymour
Collins, £8.95THE MERITOCRATS
By William Haggard
Hodder & Stoughton, £8.95

mouthed - and extremely depressing. Also quite absorbing.

William Haggard, by comparison, is a jaunty entertainer, whose book is rather under half the length and whose intentions appear markedly more frivolous. Whereas the Seymour book takes a worm's eye view, the Haggard looks at life from the top or more specifically from the beady viewpoint of Colonel Charles Russell.

Russell, now advanced in years, is becoming an ever more peppery anachronism with a marvellously certain sense of his own shrewdness.

Take Judith Maxe, the head of the ANNE project. Russell knows just where to invite her for lunch - a restaurant which was "fashionable in a solid and unfussy way and where the food was also good and unfussy." When he orders (at his insistence) he chooses her whitebait and juggled hare which I would have thought a bit risky, but Colonel Russell knows best, and she eats healthily. (I have a feeling the Colonel wouldn't rate a woman without a healthy appetite). Eventually - after the Armagnac - she says "You're a dangerously clever man and you have charm to make it even more dangerous."

Unfortunately I sense that Colonel Russell and his creator believe what the woman is saying. In fact she is merely humouring the old buffers. Never mind, Russell is as nobly fastidious as ever; the plot is decent enough; and the writing usually quite tart. A pity it all ends with so much more than a whimper.

Haggard is of an old school; Seymour of a new.

The Beasts

Angela Gordon

MEN: A DOCUMENTARY
By Anna Ford
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £10.95

The idea of Anna Ford writing a mammoth opus on men is certainly a titillating one. Here you have the woman we remember as the prim and proper ITN sidekick to the worldly Reggie Bosanquet devoting the past three years to men - the very beasts who, as soon as they looked at her, she'd scream "type for was it body fascism?" Why she should agree to attempt a social survey on the male psyche beats me; perhaps she wanted to understand the monsters?

Whatever the motive, I suspect she is deeply regretting it. Her efforts - running to 300 pages of seemingly unedited taped conversations of 120 men - confirm there is simply nothing new to say. Her subjects - all tediously anonymous with such invented names as "Rodney" the army officer and "Fred" the dustman - bore on about how their parents never cuddled them; how they got married too young; how the thrill went out of sex when they got married; how the wife's gone off "it" since giving birth; how they had their bit on the side; and yes, how they only stay for the sake of the children.

Because of the anonymity, I find some of the interviews frankly hard to believe. "Eddie", a 40-year-old carpet-layer, tells Ms Ford "Men like sex better than women, but a man must rely on what affects his

wife does out to him, because women are the only legalized dispensers of affection in our society." He's obviously an Islington socio A-B carpet-layer, but neither here nor elsewhere does Ms Ford challenge her subject.

For the voyeur, she brings us the confessions of 26-year-old policeman "Clive", who says of his first love "She was into pain, being burnt with matches on her chest. I carved my initials in blisters on her chest." Enough. This is *The Times*. Mercifully, the anonymous Cabinet Minister interviewed will not steam up anyone's bifocals with his pastimes. He sounds a complete wimp - "I weep when they play God Save the Queen." I did laugh aloud once. On the subject of the irritating habits of wives, which alas Ms Ford touches on only briefly, she earnestly cites "picking up tomatoes" while watching TV. I wonder if Ms Ford does that? We shall never know, because like the great social statement on the Eighties Man which some might have hoped from this book, it is left unsaid.

TIME & TIDE

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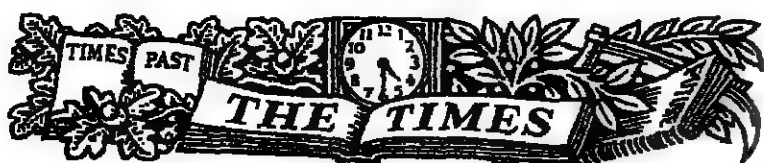
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P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

GREEK DEMOCRACY

The Greek parliament meets tomorrow for its third, and decisive, attempt to choose a successor to President Constantine Karamanlis, who resigned on March 10. As on the first two ballots, there is only one candidate, Judge Christos Sartzetakis, supported by the governing Panhellenic Socialist Movement ("Pasok"). On the first two ballots, where he needed the votes of 200 out of the 300 Greek MPs to secure election, Mr Sartzetakis won 178 and 181 votes respectively. This time 180 will be enough but, if he falls short of it, parliament must be dissolved within ten days and new elections held within another 30 - probably on Sunday May 5.

Clearly the odds are in Mr Sartzetakis's favour, but the methods being used to ensure his election are distasteful, not to say alarming in a Nato country, belonging to the European Community, which was rescued from military dictatorship little more than ten years ago.

The ballot is supposed to be secret. That is relatively easy to organize when there is more than one candidate but becomes more difficult if the opposition decides not to take part in the vote at all. The latter tactic, which is contrary to the spirit if not the letter of the constitution, was adopted by Pasok in 1980 when they were in opposition and almost succeeded in blocking the election of President Karamanlis. Now the New Democracy party founded by Mr Karamanlis has resorted to it in its turn.

The effect of such a move is one-sided in as much as it allows the non-voting party to know if any of its members have broken ranks but does not stop dissident members of the voting party from casting blank or spoiled votes without being identified. This happened on the first ballot when Mr Sartzetakis received two fewer votes than, according to Pasok calculations, he should have. To prevent it happening again on the second ballot Pasok resorted to methods which effectively made it no longer secret at all. They issued a brightly coloured ballot paper for their candidate - easily distinguishable from the blank paper signifying abstention; they made their members sit in a special order corresponding to that in which their names were called out, so that their votes could be carefully monitored; ministers fanned out through the chamber to keep an eye on those members regarded as doubtful; and, to make quite sure, Pasok members were asked to leave their unused blank papers on their desks as evidence that they had voted properly.

Hoping to avoid the repetition of such humiliating scenes on the third ballot, the New Democracy leader, Mr Constantine Mitsotakis, proposed that members should be allowed to vote behind a screen and said that if this were done his party would take part in the vote. This highly reasonable proposal, which would have restored the

secrecy required by the constitution, was rejected by the governing party as "an insult to parliament".

One wonders what Mr Sartzetakis himself - a hitherto apolitical and inconspicuous supreme court judge who is widely respected for the integrity and courage with which, as a junior magistrate, he investigated the notorious Lambrakis case in the 1960s - must think of all this. Is it the kind of democracy over which he wishes to preside? Does he expect, after being forced down the throat of parliament in this manner - to command the respect and allegiance of all Greeks irrespective of party, as a constitutional head of state should? He would greatly improve the chances of that if he were himself to announce today that he would not accept election unless tomorrow's ballot is genuinely secret, as the constitution provides.

In so doing he would demonstrate suitability for the office, by showing that he is capable of upholding the constitution even against his own supporters. The argument could then be diverted away from the person of the head of state on to the issue of his powers, which the Government proposes drastically to reduce, depriving him of the right to dissolve parliament and to call referenda on his own initiative.

The Government's argument is that such powers are not normally invested in a head of state elected only by an assembly of three hundred people; they are more appropriate to countries with a semi-presidential system, such as France, where the president is directly elected by the people. In parliamentary democracies it is normal for the option of appealing to the country to lie with the Government - as it does, for instance in Britain. Thus the contention of the Greek opposition that these amendments would in themselves, if adopted, spell the end of democracy seems exaggerated.

No doubt it is exaggerated, but it has to be understood in the context of the overall record of the Pasok Government, in which the blatant sabotage of the secret ballot for the presidential election is only the latest item. Ever since Pasok came to power in 1981, it has given priority to gaining control of all the processes of decision in Greece, rather than to the implementation of a specific economic and social programme. In part this may have been an understandable preoccupation for a left-wing party coming to power after 3½ decades of conservative rule, some democratic some not, which had left the country with an administration firmly oriented to the right. But, at least as interpreted by some influential groups within the party, it has gone rather far. Not only has there been a wholesale purge of actually or potentially recalcitrant civil servants. Provincial governors ("nomarchs") have been replaced by party nominees, and many other institutions - farmers' organizations

and cooperatives, a large part of the import-export trade, large industrial units on the pretext of overindebtedness, hospitals, universities, to a very large extent the judiciary, the police and at least the senior commanders of the armed forces - have been brought under Pasok control.

Radio and television are government-controlled, and the largest circulation newspapers are also broadly favourable to the Government, though the most successful of all - *Ethnos* - is actually more favourable to the Communist Party than to Pasok and is now being prosecuted for tapping the telephone of a *New York Times* correspondent who exposed it as a Soviet-financed front operation.

None of this amounts to suppression of democracy, and there is as yet no reason to think that the elections, which must be held at latest by October, will not be a free and fair test of the Government's support. It is ironically even possible that the Government may have helped itself electorally by diverting attention away from its very meagre economic achievements on to a somewhat artificial constitutional crisis. But there are elements within the ruling party which show authoritarian if not totalitarian instincts, and the prime minister himself, while not necessarily to be counted among those elements, has been so erratic and unpredictable in his pronouncements that few can feel fully confident that he would hold them in check, once not himself held in check by a strong head of state armed with considerable constitutional powers. It is not so much his decision to oppose a second mandate for President Karamanlis that causes anxiety, nor even his desire to amend the constitution, so much as the fact that these moves were sprung on the country without warning, after a long period during which he publicly claimed to value Mr Karamanlis's role as a guarantor of constitutional order.

One of the things that Mr Karamanlis himself takes credit for is having restrained Mr Papandreu from making radical changes in Greek foreign policy, such as leaving Nato and the European Community, which his previous programme and even his recent rhetoric commit him to in theory. In fact the attitude of the President cannot have been the only consideration. Mr Papandreu knows well that Greece, if it cut loose from the West would face acute debt problems and would also be much more exposed to the danger of serious conflict with Turkey. There is as yet insufficient evidence to think that he will change his policy in these respects any more than that he would deliberately suppress a democracy which both he and his father have spent their lives defending. But his behaviour has become so unpredictable that one cannot feel quite as confident on any of these points as one would wish.

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LOST CAUSE OF THE LOST DEPOSIT

It is difficult not to feel a lingering dissatisfaction over the Bill dealing with the conduct of elections, which enters its committee stage in the Lords today, having already passed through the Commons. It has been debated in a fitting spirit of bipartisanship, with compromises made on both sides, generally for the better. There is still room for some misgivings that its relaxation of restrictions on postal and proxy voting may open the way to an unacceptable level of malpractice in Northern Ireland (where such devices are endemic and ingenious), and perhaps also elsewhere.

The main feelings of missed opportunity lie over that part of the Bill which deals with election deposits. Unfortunately there is no agreement on whether the opportunity missed is that of abolishing this financial obstacle to those wishing to put their point of view to the electors, or of raising it to a level which would finally exclude the frivolous, crazy and mercenary candidates who have tried to turn so many recent by-elections into a circus. MPs were elected without need of deposits until 1916, but it is widely accepted that some sort of bar is indispensable in modern conditions, if only to deter bucksters from using the

privilege of free postage (worth some £8,000 today) for free advertising - and to reduce the tendency for disputes about broadcasting coverage to make broadcasting coverage effectively impossible.

The most widely canvassed alternative to a money deposit is to require candidates to produce a list of a hundred or more signatures at nomination, instead of ten, as at present. But this would scarcely be an effective obstacle to the mercenary candidate, who could easily hire people to collect signatures (which would certainly be forthcoming in a vague spirit of fair play). The labour of checking signatures against the electoral roll, whether routinely or only on challenge, would hugely increase the returning officer's task, and add to the risk of disqualification through innocent error.

Some minority parties have proposed a dual level of deposit, with a lower rate for candidates willing to forgo the perk of free mail (which participants with small resources are unable to take full advantage of in any case). This has attractions but the idea of two species of candidates officially labelled serious and marginal, is an uncomfortable one. Proposals to allow the returning officer to register eccentric party labels

simply as "Independent" would scarcely inhibit the fun in the actual campaign.

Compromises during the Bill's passage have reduced the proposed deposit from £1,000 to £500 (index-linked by the uncertain mechanism of affirmative Commons resolution), and lowered the threshold of forfeiture from one-eighth of votes cast to one-twentieth. These are improvements (and it may be noted that today's £500 is worth no more than the £150 of the early 1970s). But the result is a deposit small enough to be no great disincentive to self-publicists or eccentrics standing in one seat, but big enough to be a very real one to minority parties seeking to mount a challenge in a number of areas.

It is true that the main purpose of elections is to choose a member, and that no candidate unable to secure even a twentieth of the vote has any hope of winning. But an election is also a public forum for promoting ideas and publicly registering their support, and it is a matter for unease if serious minority views, held perhaps by many voters over the country as a whole, are excluded from the contest by an artificial financial obstacle. The scheme provided in the Bill is only acceptable because nobody has been able to think of anything better.

engineering company, and scholarships, to read engineering science, one at Oxford, the other at Cambridge.

That they were required to sign indentures, like nineteenth-century apprentices, was surprising, but the sight of middle-aged PhDs contentedly clocking in to work on the factory floor proved too much.

On graduating last year, they

abandoned engineering to pursue successful and stimulating careers in the City and in publishing, among their peers.

Dare one suggest that the old school of engineers does not really wish to change the system with which it is familiar?

Yours faithfully,
M. J. BALL,
1 Manor Drive, Chesham Bois, Buckinghamshire.

Cuckoo calls and fault-finding

From Professor J. K. Hyde

Sir, Mrs Thatcher's reported remarks (March 25) to the Conservative Central Council at Newcastle mark a further stage in the insidious politicization of the institutions of this country. Not only is it suggested that she is under some kind of obligation to instil supply-side ethics whether they believe in them or not, but it is also clearly stated that churchmen of the Established Church who criticize Government policies are cuckoos, that is, guilty of extreme ingratitude.

So, just as the view has recently been promoted that Civil Servants owe their ultimate loyalty to the Government of the day rather than to the Crown, the Prime Minister now implies that the bishops owe their office to herself and her ministers rather than to the Queen.

To suggest that the bishops do not enjoy the freedom of speech which is the birthright of everyone but should trim their words to the susceptibilities of a temporarily dominant faction within a particular party is to imply that to disloyalty to their conscience and to God. Can arrogance be carried any further?

Yours faithfully,
J. K. HYDE,
University of Manchester,
Department of History,
Oxford Road,
Manchester,
March 24.

From the Reverend Nicholas Coulton
Sir, The Prime Minister aware that her likening of bishops to cuckoos was paralleled long ago when, upon a wall of the catacombs, someone drew an ass's head on a crucifix and added the words "Alexamenos worships his God".

Ridicule did not then deter Christians from the truth. It is hardly likely to do so now. And did her Methodist Sunday school take her beyond cuckoos to that interesting Old Testament creature, the scapegoat? If so, she may know whether her ridiculing of such easy targets as bishops and dons is really meant to distract public attention from the many distinguished politicians, even in her own party, who do not share her views.

But in case her natural history studies didn't get further than cuckoos, she may care to know that it is not the cuckoo that is mistaken, but the bird in whose nest its egg is laid - until that egg comes to hatching.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS COULTON,
St Paul's Vicarage,
12 The Embankment,
Bedford,
March 27.

From the Reverend Arthur Moss
Sir, The report of the first cuckoo of spring is always eagerly anticipated but less experienced bird-watchers frequently get it wrong, confusing the call of *Columba palumbus* for *Cuculus canorus*.

The good lady from Westminster, having heard several as widely apart as Canterbury, Liverpool and Durham, to mention but a few, as early in the year as February and March, might have had second thoughts and known that what she heard was the much rarer *Novus Testamentum*.

Yours faithfully,
ARTHUR MOSS,
1 Withiel Drive,
Canington,
Bridgwater,
Somerset,
March 25.

Pensions abuses

From Mr Alan Smallbone
Sir, Sir Brandon Rhys Williams (March 19) raises an interesting point concerning the abuse of pension funds' tax-exempt status to "park" surpluses. It is even nastier than he supposes.

In their evidence on "portable pensions" Legal & General Assurance Society correctly stated: "...The underlying funding rates for causing final-salary schemes increase with age. Thus the annual cost for an older employee is significantly greater than for a younger employee..."

Most staff will have reached their ceilings of achievement by 50, but even if they thereafter receive no wage increases in real terms, they become an increasing pensions-cost burden.

Respectable employers make allowances for this, increasing their contributions to the pension fund in times of plenty to anticipate these future demands.

The first thing any successful takeover bidder does is to think of ways of declaring such staff redundant, thus making the pension scheme over-funded and releasing more money for the payment of increased dividends.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant.
ALAN SMALLBONE,
30 Temple Fortune Lane, NW11,
March 19.

For art's sake
From the Director of The Fitzwilliam Museum

Sir, It seems desirable to remove from your Diary to your correspondence columns a question of public interest which may otherwise degenerate further into a slanging match.

At the Fitzwilliam we are all grateful to the executors of the late Sir Geoffrey Keynes for their stalwart efforts to promote the magnificently generous wish, stated by their father, that his Blake collection, on the Treasury's acceptance of it in lieu of capital tax liabilities, should be recommended for allocation to this museum. Our gratitude has been expressed both to Sir Geoffrey in his life and to his sons since his death.

There has been, however, no

Judging directors' pay on merit

From Mr David Soskin

Sir, I was distressed to read Roger Opie's criticism (March 23) of Mr Harvey-Jones's recent pay rise.

Only in the UK is there a public outcry almost every time a senior industrialist receives a salary increase. Yet it is in the international, and not the national, job market that such skills are sought. By this measure Mr Harvey-Jones is still woefully underpaid. More importantly, it is on the talents of such individuals that our future economic prosperity depends.

It is thus sad to see that the politics of envy still finds voice in your columns. When I graduated from the Harvard Business School in 1979, 16 of the 21 British students in my class decided to remain in the UK.

Reading Mr Opie's infantile, outdated and misleading remarks, it is hardly any wonder that none of these fellow graduates, to my knowledge, shows the slightest sign of wishing to return to this country where viciously taxed business leaders are portrayed as overpaid and grasping, whilst pools and bingo winners - untouched by the Inland Revenue - are feted as national heroes.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID SOSKIN,
71 New End,
Hamstead, NW3,
March 25.

From Dr David Freemanle
Sir, Your editorial of March 26 makes a valid point that those earning high pay should bear more risk.

In a harshly competitive world no person can expect to achieve high pay without risking his or her job to achieve high results.

The trouble with many people in Britain (including many managers) is that they want high pay at the same time as the comfort of job security. The two are incompatible.

Leadership can only be restored to British management when we develop a new breed of lean and hungry managers (I call them superbosses) who are prepared to become individually accountable for the risks they take and the decisions they make.

At that point of time no one will have a problem equating high pay with success.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID FREEMANLE,
Handsworth House,
33 Brighton Road,
Crawley,
West Sussex,
March 26.

From Mr John Stokes, MP for Halesowen and Stourbridge (Conservative)
Sir, Your leader (March 26) criticizes the increases in pay of the chairman and directors of ICI, yet in the same issue there is an item of news from the Careers Advisory Service of St Andrews University headed "Graduates shun industry for more pay in banking".

One cannot easily increase the pay of staff in manufacturing industry (which is so essential for our national economic health) unless the pay of directors above them is also increased, otherwise the differentials will go. I suggest, therefore, one may possibly criticize the amount of this increase or the pay of ICI directors, but not the principle.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN STOKES,
House of Commons,
March 26.

Once in a blue moon

From Mr Merlyn Rees, MP for Morley and Leeds South (Labour)

Sir, Mrs Olga Lockley, in her letter of March 23, related "one small example of the continuation of oral history" connected with Sheffield. I give another connected with the same city and its Radical MP, John Arthur Roebuck, who had entered Parliament in 1832 and had been chosen as one of the two members for the city in 1849.

Lord Briggs said of him in his *Victorian People*, published in 1954, that over the years he had "established a reputation of being one of the few members of Parliament who dared to use plain speech and who showed no fear of great persons, whether in the Cabinet or at the Court." To the background of incompetence in the Crimean War he describes how Roebuck became a "tribune of the people."

On January 23, 1855, "deeply moved by events in the Crimea and convinced that they cried aloud for investigation", he asked the House of Commons to set up a select committee to inquire into the condition of the Army before Sebastopol. Roebuck, unlike several of the active critics of the Government, had no detailed knowledge of the Crimea or of the Near East. His fellow critic, Layard, was the excavator of Nineveh. Roebuck was merely the member for Sheffield. But his nickname was "Tear Em" and even as late as 1936 the phrase "Don't John Arthur Roebuck me", was still used in Sheffield if you felt that a person was getting the better of you, somewhat tendentiously, in a heated argument.

John Roebuck was remembered in the city he represented in Parliament nearly 100 years later. What an epitaph for an MP and one devoted at that by the electorate who knew him away from the boathouse of Westminster.

Yours sincerely,
MERLYN REES,
House Commons,
March 25.

opportunity to express either public or private gratitude to the Minister for the Arts, in that "he has helped give Keynes's collection of Blake's and modern art (sic), worth around £200,000, to the Fitzwilliam". There have not been the usual announcements in Parliament, followed by the issue of a press notice, of the allocation of which I read the first time in your Diary (March 23).

We are indeed grateful that the careful wishes of the great Blake scholar have so far been respected, and among us not least another would-be benefactor whose wish is that his choice of related material should eventually supplement here the Keynes collection, as Keynes himself had encouraged him to wish.

If any confidence is to remain, or better still be built in the effective operation of the offering-in-lieu provisions, there needs to be

of staff in manufacturing industry (which is so essential for our national economic health) unless the pay of directors above them is also increased, otherwise the differentials will go. I suggest, therefore, one may possibly criticize the amount of this increase or the pay of ICI directors, but not the principle.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN STOKES,
House of Commons,
March 26.

From Sir Colin Campbell
Sir, I am glad you have been ventilating in current circumstances the subject of directors' pay.

While in the long run market values should dictate these, in today's special circumstances restraint is certainly called for if we are to rebuild the export competitiveness of our manufacturing industries against the day when our oil revenues diminish.

The CBI has efficiently diagnosed the problem, but our wages have been and are continuing to grow faster than our main competitors without sufficient gains in productivity.

At a time when the Government is working to free the large number of constraints operating in the labour market (can we hope they will use the powers of the Monopolies Commission against the many monopoly suppliers of labour promoted by closed shops?) those of us near or at the top of the pile should show restraint as our contribution towards pricing as many as possible of those currently unemployed into jobs.

It is also vital to us that current public expenditure is held down. If there is an upward creep in private-sector wage settlements the implications will be adverse for us all, particularly in knock-on effects in the public sector.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN CAMPBELL,
Kilbride Castle,
Dunblane,
Perthshire,
March 25.

From Mr Stroud Cornock
Sir, The captains of industry who so blatantly exploit their position for personal gain no doubt anticipated the sort of criticism expressed by Mr Opie and others (March 23). But these are times in which abstract notions of example and restraint are yielding to rougher principles.

We should not wonder that directors should follow the practical example offered by Parliament in recent years, as members of all parties have urged restraint while advancing their own pay from approximate parity with that of college lecturers to its present and considerably more generous levels.

Yours faithfully,
STROUD CORNOCK,
13 Lynwood Court,
Stoughton Road,
Leicester,
March 24.

Resignation reason

From the Reverend Canon Paul Ostreicher

Sir, Lord Blake, reviewing the Mountbatten biography (March 14) and commenting on the First Sea Lord's opposition to Britain's attack on Egypt, says: "The professional head of the Navy cannot resign because the Government is waging a war of which he disagrees on moral and political grounds." Why then, if they could not have resigned as heads of Hitler's army, were Keitel and Jodl executed for, among other things, waging aggressive war?

Civilization and, in the future, possibly even human survival depend, to a considerable degree, on the moral rectitude of officers at every level, on their determination to resign rather than to obey an illegal or immoral order. The Nuremberg principle was right, provided it is not only forced on the vanquished by the victors.

Yours sincerely,
PAUL OSTREICHER,
50 Handen Road, SE12.

Honourable lordships

From Dr Charles Goodson-Wickes

Sir, Much as the reintroduction of hereditary peerages by the Prime Minister is to be applauded, I have never understood why the creation of new baronies has been neglected.

This device could be used to reward distinction on an hereditary basis, without the constitutional implications of seats in an Upper Chamber.

This is surely a better solution than the distribution of lordships of manors as suggested by your correspondent of March 21.

Yours faithfully,
C. GOODSON-WICKES,
95A Jermyn Street,
St James's, SW1,
March 22.

consistently fair treatment of would-be benefactors to the nation and much more realistic book-keeping coverage available for the appropriate transactions.

If Lord Gowrie considers that the patriotic heirs of Arthur Bull have been treated quite fairly, and that their treatment has benefited the heritage without needlessly burdening the overstretched resources of art-minded charities and of public institutions working in combination, perhaps he will say so.

The in-lieu provisions were well conceived; but until they can be seen to work as they should, responsible directors of museums can hardly advise inquirers to embark on a hazardous and potentially costly course.

Yours, etc,
MICHAEL JAFFE, Director,
The Fitzwilliam Museum,
Cambridge.

ON THIS DAY

MARCH 28 1925

The Standing Joint Committee on the Salaries of Elementary School Teachers first met in 1919; thereafter it adopted the name of its chairman Lord Burnham. Committees for further stages of education were later established. In 1922 education, in common with other services, had suffered from the economies inflicted by the "Geddes axe". The Times leader commenting on the article below asked: "Is the new scale higher than the old?" and found it difficult to give an answer.

PAY OF TEACHERS. LORD BURNHAM'S AWARD.

The award of Lord Burnham, an arbitrator on the question of salaries to be paid to teachers throughout the country after the end of this month, was announced yesterday. Arbitration became necessary owing to the inability of the Standing Joint Committee to agree upon scales to be paid after March 31. During 1920 and 1921 stipulated scales, embodied in what was known as the Burnham Report, were set up and allotted to the different educational areas of the country in four divisions. For the period beginning April 1, 1922, a voluntary settlement of 5 per cent was made by the teachers in response to the request of the local education authorities. These scales cease to operate after the end of this month, and in the face of demands by the local authorities for a reduction and by the teachers for the payment of the scales in full it was resolved to submit the question to arbitration.

The award issued yesterday is in the nature of a compromise. In no instance is the full standard scale of 1920 restored but in the majority of cases the present salaries are slightly increased.

ELKINSTON SCHOOL, RAYNES

Year	Present rate		Award	
	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.
I.	164 17	200 13	164 0	200 0
II.	161 17	211 0	161 0	211 0
III.	161 17	221 0	161 0	221 0
IV.	161 17	231 0	161 0	231 0

It also provided that no teacher's salary shall be reduced, and that no teacher shall receive a salary in excess of the maximum of the appropriate scale - i.e., that teachers will "mark time" until the new scale overrules their existing salaries. The new scales will operate for six years, and after that will be subject to one year's notice to terminate them. In his recommendations to the Board of Education Lord Burnham suggests that the Board should so adjust its grant that no local education authority shall gain financially by paying salaries on a basis lower than the appropriate standard scales and that handiwork teachers shall be graded for salary purposes as certified assistant teachers not college trained.

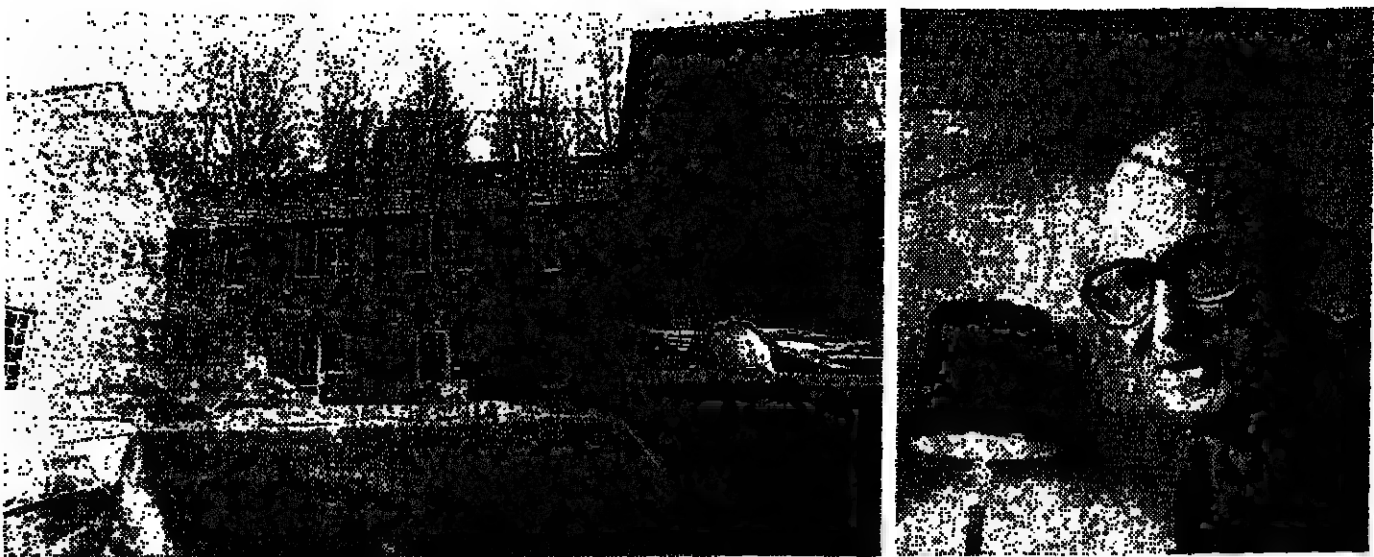
STOUGHTON SCHOOL, STALEYS

Year	Present rate		Award	
	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.
Graduate (1st)	200 0	250 0	200 0	250 0
Graduate (2nd)	180 0	230 0	180 0	230 0
Non-graduate (1st)	160 0	210 0	160 0	210 0
Non-graduate (2nd)	140 0	190 0	140 0	190 0

STOUGHTON SCHOOL, STALEYS

	Min.		Max.	
	£	u.	£	u.
undergraduate (1st)	224	0	275	0
undergraduate (2nd)	254	0	322	0
graduate (1st)	180	0	241	0
graduate (2nd)	191	0	257	0
WOMEN				
undergraduate (1st)	132	1	216	0
undergraduate (2nd)	201	1	288	0
graduate (1st)	268	1	331	0
graduate (2nd)	157	1	242	0

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Mortar, mortar everywhere: Land tax abolition means more homes, says Housebuilding Council chairman Andrew Tait

Continued from previous page

and retirement homes. In addition single people are an increasing proportion of home owners.

They do not want traditional housing. Rather they need purpose-built studio apartments, one-room flats or small houses with one or two bedrooms.

House design and house size is partly decided by the land on which it is built, and this is where the battle between builders and conservationists rages. Despite the building industry's welcome for the abolition of Development Land Tax, the House Builders Federation warn the Government that this alone will not solve the land supply problem. They believe that planning policies at local level are still inhibiting land supply for new houses, and add that "unless the Government acts decisively to introduce a new planning framework house prices will continue to rise beyond the pockets of many first time buyers."

Andrew Tait, chairman of the National House-Building Council, says: "We would like to see more of the buyer's money going into the building and less into the land."

"We recognize that planning committees have a difficult balance to strike between a proper concern for the environ-

ment and for the house buyer, but we believe that sensible planned growth can be accommodated, leaving England's countryside, even in the south east, green and pleasant."

The difference between a marginal under or over supply of land is admittedly small. Over-

of land, the problem is not insuperable. If some do not, it puts more pressure on the others," Mr Tait concludes.

The House Builders Federation has given illustrations to show the startling effect of land prices on house prices. In Farnborough, Hampshire, typi-

cal for under £30,000, of which the land price represents about one fifth.

That, according to Graham Pye, means there are two growth areas in the south east - in one the plot price for houses is about £6,500 and £15,000 in the other. "The differential, 20 per cent compared with 35 per cent, is what I can only call a land shortage tax."

Builders faced 1985 with considerable confidence despite a dip in starts at the turn of the year, and predicted that around 150,000 houses would be both started and completed during the year.

The proviso then was that their achievements depended on interest rates. With interest rate and mortgage rates up, that confidence has for the moment been dented.

There is a definite move away from the starter home market, with Barratt, who led the others into it, leading them out again. From making them 75 per cent of their output two years ago, they intend to reduce the proportion to 40-45 per cent.

Interest rates and land availability are both vital to the balance needed. In the next few months the former may well ease to provide a boost. To provide the land, both in town and country, will take longer.

Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent

PUBLIC TO PRIVATE

The dramatic switch in housebuilding in Britain during the last decade from public to private sector dominance is shown here:

Year	Starts			Completions		
	Public	Private	Total	Public	Private	Total
1974	148.1	105.9	254.0	128.6	140.9	269.5
1975	173.8	149.1	322.9	150.5	131.0	281.5
1976	170.8	154.7	325.5	152.2	115.2	267.4
1977	132.1	134.8	266.9	126.5	140.8	267.3
1978	107.4	157.3	264.7	130.7	149.0	279.7
1979	81.2	144.0	225.2	104.0	140.5	244.5
1980	58.3	98.2	156.5	109.9	127.0	236.9
1981	37.1	115.1	152.2	84.5	112.8	197.3
1982	32.3	140.1	172.4	49.4	121.1	170.5
1983	47.2	157.4	204.6	49.3	139.4	188.7
1984	38.2	152.1	190.3	48.0	150.5	198.5

Source: Department of the Environment.

all, 11 per cent of the country is at present developed, leaving 89 per cent as farmland, or countryside. By the end of the century it is estimated that demand for housing land will reduce that countryside figure by just one per cent to 88 per cent, and about 84 per cent in the south east.

"I hope that local authorities will keep in mind the needs of young house buyers. If each county contributes its fair share

of the areas of high demand in the south east, land was recently sold at £225,000 an acre, or about £15,000 a plot. This meant that over one third of the average house price in that area, costing about £43,000 went into the land.

In Milton Keynes, where land has been planned to be plentiful, the cost is about £100,000 an acre. Similar houses to those costing £43,000 or more in Hampshire are sold at Milton

New life for the old terraces

The brave new world of high-rise and system-built housing to replace old and slum housing over large areas of our towns and cities was halted by a swing of public opinion away from such solutions to the housing problem in the 1960s and 1970s.

This change largely coincided with new thinking by architects and planners, and a lack of government resources. As a result, there was a return to low-rise, traditionally built, individual or terrace houses with gardens. But that was not enough, and an important development at the time was a fresh emphasis on the renewal and improvement of older property, a trend that has continued ever since.

In recent years, government grants for improvements have helped both individuals and building companies, but the present squeeze on local government spending and local authorities' consequent failure to maintain home-improvement grants at the same levels as in the past few years has thrown the condition of our housing stock into stark relief and threatened the success of the renewal programme.

The English House Condition Survey showed in 1981 that of the 12.5 million privately owned dwellings in England, 900,000 were unfit, 700,000 lacked basic amenities, 1,049 million required repairs costing more than £7,000, and more than a quarter of the total private-sector stock, 3.5 million dwellings, required expenditure of more than £2,500 to restore them to a reasonable condition.

Yet the previous such survey in 1976 had shown that only 839,000 dwellings were in serious disrepair, suggesting that the stock had in fact deteriorated. The Building Employers Confederation estimates that to renovate existing dwellings in disrepair and prevent housing at present in good condition slipping into disrepair or decay would re-

quire additional expenditure of around £20 billion (at 1981-82 prices).

The confederation wants the Government to spend £600 million a year for the next 10 years on private housing improvement.

It said: "Such an expenditure programme would ensure that by the beginning of the 21st century, all dwellings possessed at least the basic amenities required to lead a civilized life to standards appropriate to the beginning of the 20th century -

improvement Council believes that unless the Government changes its mind on putting money into improvement and renewal, the results will not only be disastrous but will mean a reversal of its philosophy.

In a discussion document, *Improving Our Homes*, it concludes that unless public investment is increased, a new house-condition survey in 1986 would show a substantial number of dwellings now in serious disrepair to have become slums. "The only remedy for this will be to demolish

All, according to the NHIC, need further financial resources and closer administration to be really effective.

There are signs, however, that partnership schemes are becoming increasingly attractive.

Among the trail-blazing examples is the sale by Oldham Borough Council of an entire, hard-to-let, estate on the edge of the Pennines. The first sale of its kind, needing DoE approval, it was bought by the Leeds-based construction group for £406,000, and it is spending £1.2 million renovating the 159 houses, most of which will be sold to owner occupiers.

Built in the 1930s and 1940s, the Strinesdale estate needed improvement work, which the council began in the 1970s but failed to finish because of a lack of money. Thereafter it fell into disrepair and disrepute, becoming known as "debtors' retreat". Now, renamed Penine Meadows, 159 houses start a new life.

The big builders, Barratt and Wimpey, included, have all begun to concentrate more on renewal and improvement work in urban areas, because of the difficulties of finding enough sites elsewhere and also in response to government urging that they should get involved there.

Wimpey has completed urban-renewal schemes in York, part refurbishment, part new build, and in Islington, London, and Barratt is involved in several large schemes, one of the biggest being at Stockbridge village, Liverpool, a five-year, £30 million project covering an entire local-authority housing estate.

The developments show that the private building industry is increasingly flexible in its work and that improvement of older buildings remains an important element in maintaining and increasing our housing stock.

CW



Fit for heroes: Tony Worcester and the homes his firm has renovated on the Strinesdale estate in Oldham

a fixed bath or shower, wash-basin, sink, hot and cold running water and an indoor water-closet."

Defending the Government's decision to cut back on housing improvement grants, Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, recalled that at its peak the improvement-grants scheme contributed only about 10 per cent to the total spent on improvement and repairs by owner-occupation, landlords and developers, which is running at about £9,000 million a year. "This demonstrates very clearly the limited impact that the public sector money has when set against the resources of the private sector," Mr Jenkin said.

The National Home Im-

provement Council believes that unless the Government changes its mind on putting money into improvement and renewal, the results will not only be disastrous but will mean a reversal of its philosophy.

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All, according to the NHIC, need further financial resources and closer administration to be really effective.

Helping the vulnerable, encouraging the vigorous: Nationwide in action



In the complicated world of building and housing finance people need help with money and with expertise. Nationwide has a long tradition of support for housing.

In recent months, for example, Nationwide has helped put a roof over the heads of homeless mothers and their children in south London. In the Southampton area we are assisting with 'stay-put' schemes to help elderly people carry out improvement and repair work, so that they can continue to live in their own homes in greater comfort.

And in St Albans a group of self-build enthusiasts was recently given backing by Nationwide, to enable them to start work on the construction of their own semi-detached houses.

Very much in this spirit we have supported

inner-city regeneration: Nationwide was the first building society to launch a special support lending scheme. We have also pioneered index-linked lending, to enable people who would otherwise be unable to afford it to buy a home of their own.

HOUSING TRUST

The Nationwide Housing Trust, established in 1983 with a brief to help improve the Nation's housing stock, has so far committed £28 million to 16 housing developments, providing over 1,250 units in urban areas for those on modest incomes and for those who are in the later stages of life.

Whatever the future, financing homes for as many people as possible will still be our major preoccupation. We reaffirm our commitment to housing.

It pays to decide Nationwide

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YORKSHIRE
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WILTSHIRE
Porton Road, ANDOVER
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The biggest landlord in the West but are its days numbered?

When foreign architects come to Britain, housing built by the London County Council and its successor, the Greater London Council, is always prominent on their itinerary. Although it is building fewer than 400 new homes a year now, in its heyday the council was responsible for up to 7,000 starts a year and its work has always been acknowledged as among the best designed municipal housing in the world.

Architects working for the Metropolitan Board of Works were transferred to the LCC when it took over in 1889 and it was not long before housing became a principal activity. Pressure on land and its consequent cost determined that two types of dwellings were built: flats inside its boundaries and cottages without.

Grim tenements were soon replaced by a more humanitarian architecture inspired by the Utopian social ideals of William Morris and stylistically by Norman Shaw Arts and Crafts (Boundary Street flats, Shoreditch) and a mixture of English domestic and art nouveau (Millbank).

In the early years of the new century, the first self-contained cottages were built, at White Hart Lane, Tottenham, and later the Beconite Estate, Dagenham.

The Addison Act of 1919, following Lloyd George's promise of "Homes for Heroes", required local authorities to build housing and for the first time government subsidy was available. For the next 30 years, the council embarked on an ambitious building programme, which resulted in about 75,000 new dwellings, a third in its boundary (now the inner London boroughs), the rest on greenfield sites.

Such a scale of operation was unprecedented in the days before prefabrication; but for the first time there was a

financial and organisational mechanism to build on such a scale.

Le Corbusier's ideas for medium and high-rise living arrived soon after the war - which damaged about 90,000 LCC homes - at Bentham Road in Hackney and the Alton West estate, Roehampton, opened in 1959. Vast estates were built in a mixture of high-and-low rise blocks, such as the Peppys estate

Point. "When we made mistakes we made big ones," says Tony McBrearty, chairman of the GLC Housing Committee.

By the time of the transfer of power from the LCC to the GLC in 1964/65, the council had become "the biggest landlord in the western world", with about a quarter of a million dwellings on its books. But the new council was required to transfer its housing stock to the

five per cent of its peak period in the mid-1970s - most of its £140-million of capital expenditure goes on patching up pre- and post-war housing.

Mr. McBrearty argues that a £1-billion, 10-year programme is needed to revitalize the existing housing stock which is crumbling. After playing a major role in improving the quality of life in the capital over the last 100 years, it now faces abolition when the need for better homes is greater than ever.

"Many of the problems could and should be tackled by the boroughs, but there is a need for a GLC or a similar organisation to assist them," he says.

The facts are that the London boroughs have half a million people on their housing waiting lists; there are 34,000 registered homeless families, of which about 3,000 are in temporary accommodation such as bed and breakfast hotels; and the condition of the housing stock generally has been deteriorating since about 1976.

House condition surveys in 1979 and 1981 have shown that one in four houses require repairs costing at least £2,500, while demolition continues at the rate of between 1,000 and 2,000m dwellings a year.

Abolition has raised more questions than it answers for London's public housing sector. While the boroughs will receive a larger housing investment allocation from the Government, it is unclear what will happen to the revenue from rents; the mechanics of looking after the housing stock still needs to be worked out in detail; and Thamesmead, the mini-new town being built by the GLC on Erith Marshes, finds itself in limbo, with 25,000 of its 40,000 population in place but with its future undecided.

CK

Utopian ideal for living

Housing became a social service with the passing of the Addison Act in 1919, after prime minister Lloyd George had promised "Homes for Heroes" returning from the trenches. Previous legislation aimed at housing the urban poor had produced few results.

The next 35 years, until the mid-1970s, saw privately-rented accommodation decline by 600 per cent, owner-occupation matched it with an increase of 600 per cent, but the public rented sector expanded dramatically, by 3,300 per cent.

The Act imposed a statutory duty on all local authorities to build their own homes with the help of government subsidy. Healthy conditions were provided to combat the repeated outbreaks of diseases such as malaria, cholera, typhoid and diphtheria associated with bad living conditions. Housing remained the responsibility of the Ministry of Health until 1951.

Until the state intervened the

Workers' houses: top, Albert's model lodging house, 1851, and above, cottages built by the Duke of Bedford for his labourers in 1858

"respectable" poor had to rely on the voluntary efforts of private reformers and philanthropists. John Ruskin, for example, campaigned for the provision of "lodgements" for working people. Prince Albert

went further when, in 1844, he became president of the Society for Improving the Condition of the Labouring Classes. He commissioned new homes from the architect Henry Roberts and a pair of his model cottages

This model, devised by Raymond Unwin, the Garden City architect of Ebenezer Howard, was to be adopted for most of the four million homes built in Britain until the outbreak of the last war.

But the Utopian vision which inspired it was very often left behind, as suburban sprawl (hated by Unwin) blanketed thousands of acres of land. This was one occasion when the private sector followed the welfare state's lead.

CK

Postwar promises that were never fulfilled

Postwar public housing has proved a great disappointment to those who were involved in its exciting beginnings. In spite of huge resources being made available, tremendous enthusiasm on the part of the building industry and professions and the political will to act on an unprecedented scale, in history, basic answers to the problem of how to provide decent homes for everybody seem to elude us.

After all that was achieved more than a million properties in England alone are still unfit to live in because of dampness, poor drainage or inadequate daylight; a quarter of all homes need repairs costing more than £2,500; and one in 20 still lacks such basic amenities as hot and cold running water, says the National Consumer Council.

Yet at least 10,000 homes built within the last 15 years have been torn down and an estimated £5 billion will need to be spent on essential repairs to keep others up before the end of the century.

What went wrong? At a pragmatic level, the failures tend to be either social or technical; occasionally they are both. Mr Andrew Derbyshire, one of Britain's leading postwar architect-planners, told the Royal Society of Arts last week that his generation believed Le Corbusier's ideal cities of the 1920s could create order out of the disorder of the Industrial Revolution. The master's intoxicating rhetoric and seductive sketches convinced everyone that "geometry could rescue people from squalor".

Such ideas could be tested to destruction. Mr Derbyshire suggested. Unfortunately, as it turned out, architects qualified in a country devastated by war, were short of materials and skilled labour.

Early post-war housing schemes, such as Churchill

Gardens in Pimlico, by Powell and Moya, and the Roehampton estate, by the then London County Council architect's department, gave a foretaste of the quality of modern living which could be expected in medium-to high-rise blocks built using prefabricated systems. Alas, politicians, planners and the economics of scale proved that was not to be the case.

Governments embarked on the numbers game: Harold Macmillan promised 300,000 new homes a year in 1953; by 1964, Harold Wilson had raised the bid to half a million. Councils were given subsidies to build high, using any of



Andrew Derbyshire: Failures tend to be either social or technical in a country devastated by war

literally hundreds of concrete building systems offered by the contractors. Construction workers were paid on speed rather than performance and quality went out the window.

An indication of the lifespan of flats built using new methods of construction was given when Quarry Hill flats, in Leeds,

came down in the mid-1970s after 40 years. Most dramatically of all, of course, was the partial collapse of Ronan Point in east London in 1968. Social problems soon became associated with particular estates, such as the Pigeonies in Liverpool.

By the time the lessons had been learned, in the early 1970s, the money had run out. This encouraged a return to low-rise homes, in traditional construction, and of a more human scale; and the repair and improvement of a largely Victorian and Edwardian housing stock, through home improvement grants, housing action areas and so on.

Tight control of public sector borrowing has virtually eliminated new housing in the public sector altogether; what money is available is spent on patching up old houses. Necessity has encouraged local authorities to examine other options, however, such as partnership schemes with private developers to build on council-owned land; support for self-help and self-build groups; and giving tenants greater control over their estates.

Welfare state housing has not escaped privatization, with the sale of council homes to tenants; but the goal of 100 per cent owner-occupation will never be more than that while Britain devotes less resources to the maintenance and replacement of its ageing housing stock than any other civilized country.

One recent estimate is that it will be 900 years before the "housing problem" will be solved at the present level of action. That is an untenable position but one which might be with us for the foreseeable future.

CK

WHICH BUILDING SOCIETY GIVES MORE HOME LOANS THAN ANY OTHER?

HALIFAX. THE WORLD'S N°1.



New for old: Harold Macmillan, then Minister for Housing, inspects an old-fashioned kitchen at a modernization exhibition in London in 1954



Rod Hackney: community propagandist

In Michael Frayn's award-winning play, *Benefactors*, which is about helping people and people being helped, the character of David, an architect, is given two of the most telling lines about professional attitudes.

At the opening of the play, his dreams of rebuilding Basuto Road, SE15, are encapsulated by the words which will be familiar to hundreds of communities throughout the country: "They're going to get their houses pulled down whether they like it or not. And we don't need to ask them what they want instead because we know."

Some 15 years later, his *Brave New World* remains unbuilt, scuppered by a campaign mounted by his journalist friend, Colin, and the impossibility of building anything of quality when hamstrung by the bureaucracy of regulations and control.

"It was people," says David. "That's what wrecks all our plans - people."

Last month, the Prince of Wales took up the cause of the "ordinary bloke" in his address to the Institute of Directors' annual congress at the Royal Albert Hall. He had been inspired to talk about "community

architecture" following recent private visits he had made to self-help and self-build housing co-operatives in Liverpool and Macclesfield. It was a theme he first touched on when talking to architects at Hampton Court Palace last spring.

He endorsed a movement which grew out of community action in the inner cities from the late 1960s and early 1970s. It was local people who campaigned for better housing and a better deal generally, and who resented being patronized and told what they could have by central and local government.

The community activists included young (and not so young) architects who, within a few years, were being hailed as heroes by Colin Ward, in an article in *New Society*. Among them were Jim Johnson, of ASSIST in Glasgow, Ralph Erskine and Vernon Gracie for their

work in the Byker area of Newcastle, Jim Munnahan in Covent Garden, and Rod Hackney in Macclesfield, the movement's most skilled politician and propagandist.

New the point has been taken by the profession, through the Royal Institute of British Architects' Community Architecture Group, the Government, with a

"What I believe is important about community architecture is that it has shown ordinary people that their views are worth having; that architects and planners do not necessarily have the monopoly of knowing best..."

The Prince of Wales addressing architects at Hampton Court Palace last year on a theme he returned to at the Institute of Directors' annual congress last month.

number of initiatives from the Department of the Environment; and most recently by the Church, when the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, talked about hope for the inner city earlier this month.

It would seem that community architecture is now unstoppable, as everyone involved slowly begins to realize that not only does it make good sense to let people play an active part in shaping their immediate environment, but that in the present times, self-help and self-build might be the only way to solve the mammoth problems presented by inner-city decay.

The idea has recently been launched a programme of Community Urban Design Assistance Teams (CUDATs) based on the successful American experiment pioneered by David Lewis, a

British architect, in the aftermath of the city riots there in the 1960s. Participation grew out of the civil rights movement and RUDATS, the US equivalent, led to a renaissance of inner-city neighbourhoods. The next target in Britain must be to

encourage architects to set up shop in the streets which are most in need of help as part of an official programme. Hundreds are already working at this level in community architecture projects throughout the country, but the question now being asked is if a National Health Service can provide doctors, and a legal aid service can provide solicitors, where they are most needed, then should not those in the inner city be given access to the professional expertise of architects in repairing their environment?

Today's community architects are less concerned with the product of what they build (few are unaware of the profession's form fixation), as with the process of achieving a satisfactory result for their client - the users of their buildings.

The recent alignment of the profession, government, Church and monarchy, in encouraging "ordinary blokes" to have a greater say in deciding their future is perhaps the most encouraging - as well as most significant - new development in housing since it became a social service nearly 70 years ago.

CK

The ultimate in do-it-yourself

Self-builders are the third largest housebuilders in Britain today after Barratt and Wimpey. That comes as a surprise to many people, but with completions estimated at 10,000 this year (based on VAT registrations with Customs and Excise), those who choose to go in for do-it-yourself on the grand scale are now a significant force in the market-place.

Colin Murray, secretary of the Society of Self-Builders, is based not far from one of the earliest self-build schemes: Stonehenge. He says there are three main reasons why people decide to self-build:

● The want more for their money, and have definite views about the style and layout of house they want;

● Many seem to have an instinct to build for himself, to embody his ideas and labour in his home.

The rewards, apart from the satisfaction of doing the job, should include a saving of at least 20 per cent on the mortgage value of the house; quite possibly up to 40 per cent. The more effort put in - whether preparing foundations, installing central heating and plumbing, or simply decoration - the greater the saving: 50 per cent being the maximum, the rest represented by the materials, of course.

Self-building involves managing the project, from finding the land, itself no easy task these days, with speculative house-builders paying £200,000 an acre and more for prime sites in the south-east, to reorganising the plans, subcontracting



If you want to do something well... a self-help building group at Milton Keynes

specialist work, choosing materials and negotiating trade terms with suppliers.

Most homes are built by individuals but a substantial minority of homes are built by friendly societies. Groups of self-builders register as housing associations under the Industrial and Provident Society Act, thus acquiring legal status. The association then operates as building company, with the cash-saving advantages of a large group.

Generally a specialist consultant acts as manager. It is often, but not always, an

architect, and he has other experts at his disposal. One of the most important arrangements is loan finance, often through the Housing Corporation. The consultant will also supervise work to ensure smooth progress and, hopefully, avert most of the headaches which could arise. His fee is based on the medium value of each individual property.

Groups are usually formed because there is a shortage of land or it is available only as a "job lot", and money is tight. Often, site problems which

require special foundations, for example, can be tackled more cost-effectively by a group.

Those involved in a self-build association may typically spend 24 hours a week over a 52-week year organizing and building the house, including all their holidays. It is not something for the faint-hearted even to contemplate. Banks and building societies are generally happy to lend money these days, but the house will probably have to be fairly conventional (worth bearing in mind for its resale, too) and the loan agency likes to

have someone professionally competent to check that the work complies with building regulations.

On some private house-building sites it is now possible to buy a ready-plumbed foundation and ground floor slab on which to build. Outside the Home Counties, a typical small site might cost from £12,000, which the self-builder might move on to straight away in a caravan having sold an existing house.

Away from the South-East, cheap small plots are still plentiful, some offered by estate agents but many available from local authorities.

The chronic housing shortage, downturn in public sector house-building programme and rising cost of building makes self-build an increasingly attractive option. Starting District Council has recently embarked on an ambitious self-build scheme, the biggest in Scotland for 60 years.

The Abbey National and Scottish building societies are providing the finance for the construction of 29 flats and the construction of nine new-build homes on council land, which could set a trend in public and private sector tie-ups to beat the cut back in housing investment imposed by the Government.

CK

Information: Society of Self-Builders, Cheston House, Flower Lane, Amesbury, Wiltshire SP4 7HE. Secretary: Colin Murray.

Mortgage changes to come

The fact that more than half Britain's houses are owned by their occupants is to a large extent due to the activities of the building societies. Their remarkable success owes much to the highly specialized nature of their business and, until recently, to the lack of any other competition in the home-loan market. But to retain their pre-eminence in a new climate of competition they are now having to change their ways for the first time in nearly a century. For housebuyers, the new competition in the mortgage market is already paying dividends.

Over the last 10 years, owner-occupation has risen from just over 50 per cent to 60 per cent of the country's housing stock. Most of the buying was done through mortgage finance. The building societies have notched up new lending records in each of the last three years, rising to a million loans worth more than £20 billion last year. Moreover, by offering lower rates of interest on smaller loans - the opposite of normal financial practice - the societies consciously encourage first-time buyers to enter the housing market. Roughly two-thirds of all the loans last year were to first-time buyers.

Hence the rapid expansion of owner-occupation. And the societies go further. Because of their sound financial position they are willing and able to lend more than 80 per cent of the value of the property when other mortgage lenders will not. Increasingly the societies are leading up to 100 per cent, particularly when mortgage funds are as plentiful as they were at the end of last year. However, borrowers have benefited more from the ending of the interest rate "cartel" in 1983 when societies ceased to agree on a common level of lending rates. Though the situation is now less simple, with societies setting different rates and varying differential structures, there is more pressure to keep the rates low. Two societies, the Woolwich and Nationwide, have even ceased to charge more on bigger loans and have a single rate for all mortgages.

This development was also stimulated by the sudden entry of the clearing banks into the

mortgage market in 1982. Almost immediately, this new competition took 30 per cent of that year's mortgage market. After a brief withdrawal, the banks have settled down to a 20 per cent share.

Unlike building societies, the banks tend to aim for the upper end of borrowers, where loans are bigger but no more expensive to service. From the start, therefore, they did not charge more on large loans. This business was so clearly attractive that last year saw the entry of yet more bank lenders, this time American banks such as Citibank and Chemical Bank, even merchant banks.

At the same time as new competition came the period of

historically high lending rates - now around eight per cent above inflation. This has led to the introduction of new types of loan designed to be more flexible and cheaper than the traditional form of repayment or endowment mortgage. There are home loans linked to unit trusts, for example, or tied to tax-favoured pension schemes. Another inflation mortgage, carry very low repayments in return for a proportion of any increase in the property's value when it is sold.

The new forms of loan are becoming more popular as they become better understood by the public. A more dramatic development is likely to come when building society legislation is finally comprehensively overhauled in an Act due next year. It will allow societies to offer more banking-type services in savings and credit facilities.

In a recent report the Building Societies Association calculated that the number of owner-occupiers would continue to rise until the end of the century. By the year 2000 more than £100,000 a year would be needed to fund house purchases, the report said.

Both banks and building societies will continue to lead in proportion to their present market shares and will be able to find the funds to do so. By the start of the next century the BSA calculates that no less than about 75 per cent of Britain's housing stock will be owner-occupied.

Richard Thomson

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From associations to new towns

Besides private and local authority housing, the 550,000 houses owned by the housing associations are a tiny proportion of our housing stock - 2.5 per cent - but this figure is steadily growing as the associations fill an increasingly important role in providing public housing.

Though the National Federation of Housing Associations is a comparatively youngster, celebrating its golden jubilee this year, its members go back to the Middle Ages, the oldest being the St Laurence Charity at Cirencester, Gloucestershire. That is one of the alms-house associations, of which there are about 2,000 providing an average of 10 houses each.

They were the first to provide sheltered housing, which altogether now forms about half of housing association accommodation.

The route to the present widely varying associations has passed through the Victorian philanthropy movement and the formation of the Metropolitan Association for the Improvement of the Dwellings of the Industrial Classes, quickly followed by the Peabody, Guinness and Samuel Lewis Trusts.

The non-profit housing linked with industrial concerns arrived too, producing New Lanark in 1810, Saltaire, near Bradford, in the mid-19th century and Bourneville and Port Sunlight, Merseyside, later.

The movement came into the modern age with the Housing Acts of 1961 and 1964 which set up the Housing Corporation to act as its banker and policeman and provided government funding for the first time.

With the passing of the 1974



Richard Best: Housing associations have proved they can do still more

Housing Act the framework was complete and saw housing associations as the major public agents for rehabilitating and improving older urban property, especially in the inner cities.

In the past 10 years, the movement has increased, the number of houses from fewer than 250,000 to more than 500,000. During the late 1970s associations built more than 40,000 houses in three successive years, but spending cuts have reduced that to about 22,000 a year.

Even so, the associations, crossing political barriers, have fared better than local government at a time of spending cuts.

Richard Best, director of the National Federation of Housing Associations says:

"We are now waiting for better times, for we have proved that we can run a bigger programme."

"We were a bit amateur in our approach, but now we are very professional and it is galling that now we are ready to go, we are on a declining

programme. We like to think we combine the best of the private sector in our adventurous attitude with the good things from the public sector, providing a service and not trying to make a profit."

The 26,000 voluntary committee members, ranging from a High Court judge to modest tenants, are drawn together by their wish to do something for the old and others who need housing and see their reward through the tangible results of houses with people living in them.

Housing initiatives pioneered or fostered by the movement include co-ownership, co-operative and self-build housing associations, low-cost home ownership schemes such as shared ownership, and housing for special needs.

Housing for sale now accounts for about 16 per cent of their output, which Mr Best thinks is enough.

He sees an increasing need for the movement to draw in private funding, as it cannot depend on the Government.

The movement is seeking to involve building societies in the hope that they will lend on a low but index-linked basis, which would help the associations to keep up the momentum.

With the Nationwide in particular, this is an encouraging source. Through their partnerships with private builders and links now with building societies, housing associations seem set to increase their role in providing public housing that fills a much-needed gap.

From within the whole housing association movement came the forerunners of the garden city movement and new towns of this century.

The 11 first-generation towns, designated between 1946 and 1950, include eight ringing London which were set up to tackle the capital's postwar housing problem. The other three - Aycliffe and Peterlee in Co Durham and Corby, Northamptonshire - were built in response to the needs of local industry.

The second generation towns - Redditch, Skelmersdale, Runcorn and Washington - were intended to ease urban congestion, while the third generation, including Northampton, Telford, Milton Keynes and Peterborough, were designed to cope with larger population targets.

The Government's investment in the 20 English new towns has exceeded £3.7 billion for 850,000 people, 340,000 houses, 10.5 million square metres of factories, 1.3 million square metres of offices, and shops, roads and community facilities.

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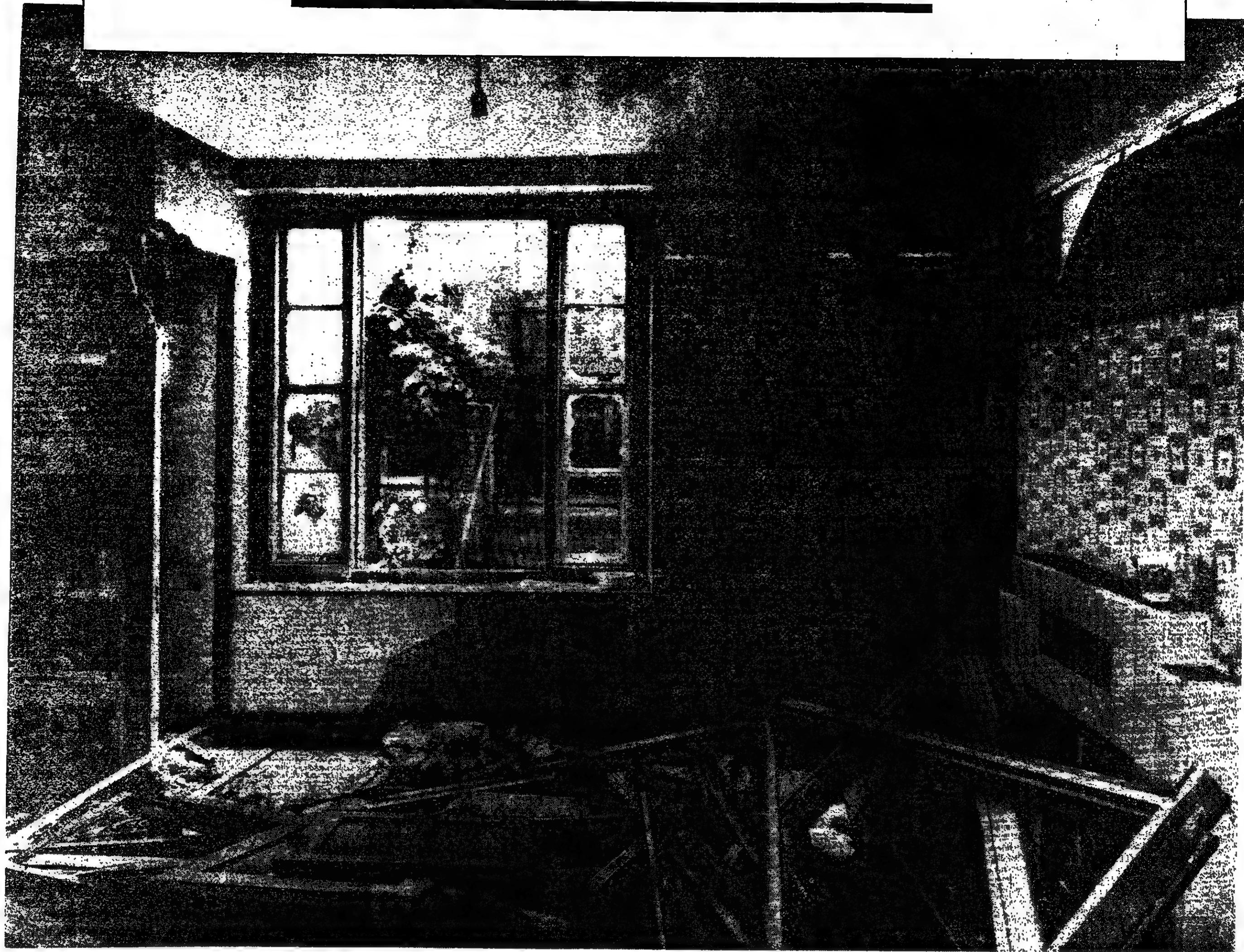
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Room for improvement... or area for cuts?



London still has a huge housing crisis. Tens of thousands are homeless and one home in four is unfit for human habitation, in serious disrepair, or lacking basic amenities such as a bathroom. The worst conditions are found in the private sector, particularly in rented housing.

Many council homes, in their day offering excellent accommodation, are now over 50 years old and need modernising.

In 1980 the GLC began transferring its homes to the London boroughs and undertook a government-imposed legal duty to renovate that housing. As a result the GLC is investing in a massive £1,000 million programme of improvement up to 1992.

This programme is the biggest of its kind in the country. It has required the

expertise both of the GLC and the private construction industry to deal with the immense problems concerned.

Abolition of the GLC would at best mean a tremendous disruption to the renovation programme. At worst, it could end it altogether. The Government has stated that the London boroughs will receive the money previously allocated to the GLC. However, during the past five years, the money made available by the Government for public investment in housing in London has been more than halved. Furthermore, a cut of £65 million in housing allocations was hailed as a 'victory' by the Secretary of State.

What price decent housing for Londoners after 1986, with this record?

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FOCUS

Planners with leisure in mind

Professionals liberated by micro-computers from the rigid working week need a leisure programme suited to their needs. Space for rest and recreation is becoming a major marketing device for the home of the future.

At the Ideal Home Exhibition, Wimpey Homes has three new styles on show, one of which is a four-bedroom house incorporating a jacuzzi and a multi-gym. Bovis Homes, however, has approached new lifestyles in a more innovative way. The company is building a mixed development of 81 homes in Milton Keynes which resembles a holiday village in concept. Among the flats and executive houses is a sports centre for the exclusive use of the residents.

There is a swimming pool, jacuzzi, multi-purpose sports hall, residents' lounge, solarium, an edge-of-the-lake barbeque and a tennis court.

Neville Tullah, regional managing director, says: "We are building the apartments and houses around the centre. The houses will be aimed at professional couples with children moving to Milton Keynes. The emphasis is very much on today's family."

As land is so scarce in the Home Counties, Milton Keynes was chosen for such a development. Mr Tullah thinks the Midlands will see more of this type of development.

"Because the land values are cheaper, you are so constrained in the South-east by high land values that it takes away design innovation," he says.

Home videos have established themselves as a part of a leisure lifestyle. Thorn EMI and Wimpey Homes are now undertaking a research project to look at ways of increasing new technology in the home.

Subject to final agreement and planning permission, Wimpey Homes intends to construct a show house at Thorn EMI's research centre in Uxbridge. The house will be wired with fibre optic cabling for experiments in home automation. If the project goes ahead, the two companies will conduct market research of selected people for their reactions to the automated home.

Sue Markham, Thorn EMI's home electronics strategy director, says: "All the sophisticated stuff has been done in labora-

tories where you do not have the problem of people living in it."

One possible subject for research is the ability for videos to be shown all over the house instead of being confined to the main television in the living room.

"A lot of people have two or three televisions, one in the kitchen for breakfast TV or one in the bedroom, as well as the living room," Mrs Markham says. "You cannot normally use these televisions for replaying videos, so a useful thing would be to pipe video signals around the house."

Security is another area the two companies will examine. A cheap security system can be devised to control the front door using the domestic television. If planning permission is granted, work will start on site in the summer.

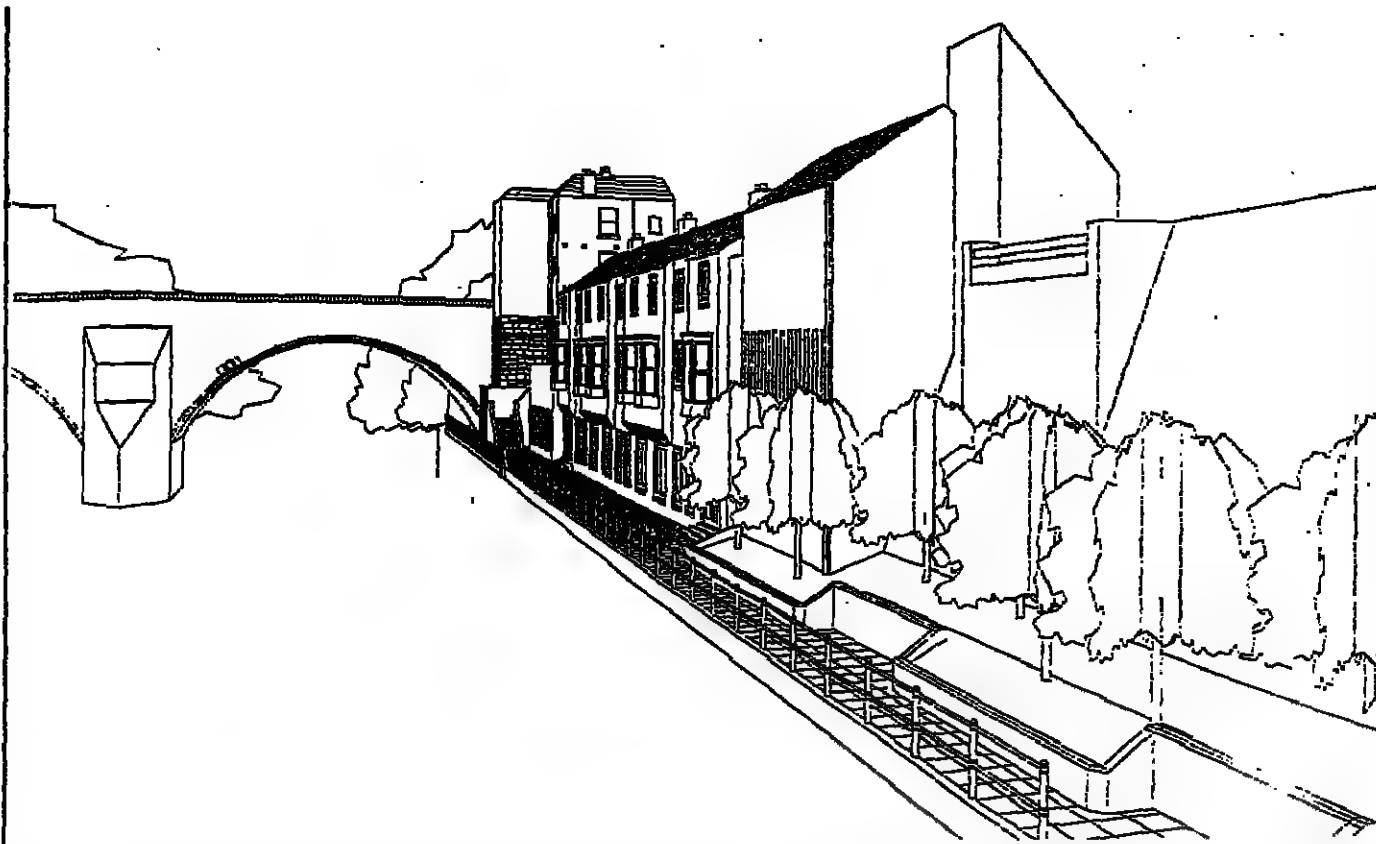
Bellway Homes built a "high tech" home in Doncaster two years ago. "We included all the gadgets you could imagine," says Howard Dawe, group technical director. "There were computer-controlled curtains, kettles, lights, whirlpool baths. It was a fun thing to some extent."

In its range of houses costing more than £35,000, Bellway fits an electronically-motivated alarm to the exterior of the house. Inside panic buttons, pressure mats and electronic eyes are installed and linked to the general alarm system. "It is a package that purchasers can continue to add to," he says. The company is also working with the North East Gas Board to provide an insulation package.

Madeleine Dyer



Rosemary Vaux: 'It's marvellous'



Just picture it: Computer print-out of a design by the British company, Building Design Partnership

See your ideal home take shape on the VDU

Chic house-hunters in the year 2000 might find it as natural to visit their house-designers to plan their ideal home with the increasing use of computer-aided design.

It is now technically possible to design a house to an individual buyer's specification, which could make homes designed by established developers seem a little off-the-peg to discerning tastes in home haute couture.

It is already happening in the United States, where affluent buyers visit architects or developers and experiment with their own ideas based on standard housing styles in three dimensions on a visual display unit.

In this way, buyers can decide in advance how much space they want to allocate to living, working, leisure, exer-

cise, storage and the car.

Using the computers database of standard elements of house construction, whatever ideas buyers have for their homes are checked for building regulations and safety standards. As everything is automated for the developer, buyers are assured of high standards. And the buyer also has a wide range of materials from which to choose.

The American company, Carrier Corporation of New York, manufactures E2000, a computer-aided design system being used for this purpose by a Pennsylvania housing devel-

oper. The developer uses pre-cut sections of logs as the principal building material which he then "pieces together like an electronic Lego set".

The system generates construction drawings based on the buyer's specifications which are then passed on to local agents who assemble them into houses. Quite a few residential housing developers are using them in North America.

Such freedom in the choice of design would be hampered by shortage of land in this country which is not a problem in the United States. The architectural practice, Building Design Part-

nership, a British company, has developed a similar three-dimensional modelling system called Acropolis which can perform many of the same functions as E2000. At the moment it is only available to house-builders rather than individual house-buyers.

Richard Saxon, a partner in the firm, foresees these systems becoming so sophisticated that they will be able to list individual goods and services in a design drawing and calculate their cost, or even how much energy a particular design will use. Electronic catalogues of fixtures and fittings on a video disc linked to a computer-aided design program could furnish the house on the VDU to the buyer's choice.

MD

The modern Mayfair office in a suburban semi

Working from home with new technology requires extra space. And although new homes may have rooms for this purpose, the growing number of self-employed more than one million of them based at home, probably make do with the living room or converted bedroom.

Given the Chancellor's favourable reaction to the self-employed in the Budget, there are likely to be a lot more people working from home in future. So how do people cope

with working from home?

Rank Xerox was one of the first organizations to negotiate service contracts with independent limited companies which were founded by former employees. This is integral to the employees being able to develop their own business interests.

"I have two rooms set up as offices which were bedrooms," says Rosemary Vaux, 40, from her semi-detached home in Harrow. She has decorated them to look business-like, installing red curtains and

matching angle-poise lamps to add a colourful "high-tech" flavour.

Mrs Vaux edits Rank Xerox's international headquarters' newspaper as well as running her own public relations firm. She thinks working from home is "marvellous". She says: "I have no travelling to do, therefore I get much more done. Productivity is fantastic and it is very easy to run the rest of my life."

Rank Xerox has a network contract with Mrs Vaux's public

relations company, and as a networker it lends her a microcomputer, software and a modem link which she uses to relay copy to its offices down the telephone line. She does not feel inhibited by living and working in the same place, nor does it disrupt her. "I'm not working in the dining room or kitchen," she says. "I feel the same way sitting here as I would sitting in an office in Mayfair."

MD

Science and sense in getting it right

Recent worries about possible failure in timber-frame and masonry block constructed houses due to condensation, caused in some cases by poor workmanship on-site, is one of the focal points of scientific research using new technology to make designs foolproof.

But the National House-Building Council, architect of the 10-year warranty to assist homes to last well into the 21st century, wants to eradicate poor workmanship as a cause of building failure.

The NHBC feels the public's confidence in the industry can only be harmed by builders who have claims made against them. It has therefore instigated a pilot study with the aid of 10 medium-sized housebuilders to monitor the practice of selecting building materials and the quality of the practical work done on site.

"We plan to have firms doing more positive things to achieve quality assurance," says Anthony Cooper, deputy director general of the NHBC. "It is a matter of individual firms organizing management and men in such a way that the end result is more foolproof and less prone to snags arising." Mr Cooper says builders should specify at the outset what standard of finish they expect to receive on site from their employees and their materials.

House-builder Charles Church, which won an award in the NHBC's Pride in the Job campaign last year, is one of the 10 and the study's results are expected in May.

It is precisely to control and monitor materials that one of Laing Construction's housing divisions, Superhomes Limited, employs micro and mainframe

computers to make its housing designs foolproof and cut wastage and pilferage costs.

The computer prepares materials schedules for each house under construction. Components like heating systems or kitchen and bathroom ware are held in a central warehouse, and are released only when needed to fit out the shells of houses. These are then delivered to the site in separate locked containers which are not opened until required by the Superhomes team, who work under strict Superhomes supervision. This system is available to other volume builders.

Laing also has a programme to assist financial decision-making on land viability. All the variables involved in house-building, like the cost of land and the installation of sewers, are fed into the computer and an idea of how much each house on the proposed site will have to cost in order to make a profit is forecast. It allows the company to pull out of an unprofitable scheme before it loses money.

Before the British Standards Institute or the British Board of Agreement pass or issue certificates on building materials, they test them under extreme conditions, monitoring their progress by computer to assess their capability to perform a particular function in a house.

And if the NHBC's quality assurance scheme takes off, the day when a house will be seen as a consumer durable along with items like an electric iron, worthy of a kitemark denoting quality, safety and value for money, is much less than 15 years away.

MD



Superhomes' container: All items under lock and key

700 years of housing associations

This year the National Federation of Housing Associations celebrates its 50th birthday — admittedly, no match for The Times in its 200th year. But housing associations go back to the Middle Ages. Some of those charitable bodies are still around today. And have been joined by a range of newer housing associations.

Today over a million people in England and Wales live in rented homes provided by associations. And despite our long history, more than half of these homes have appeared in the last decade. Every year some 30,000 additional homes are completed. About half are in schemes of new building, principally of sheltered housing for the elderly. The other half are in schemes of property acquisition and modernisation.

Some housing associations are relatively large. Those sponsoring this message all provide more than 5,000 homes each. Many are small: more than half the 1,850 associations in membership of the National Federation of Housing Associations own less than 200 homes. They may work nationally, or just in one town or village.

They may cover a range of needs, or they may concentrate exclusively on some particular group such as the disabled, frailer elderly people or the single homeless. Their strength lies in their variety and diversity. This gives them flexibility and the chance to provide a personal service of housing management.



All are controlled by unpaid voluntary committees. These comprise specialists and others who share a common concern to meet unmet housing needs.

In many areas, there are acute shortages of decent homes to rent for those for whom home ownership is not the answer. Yet the programme of local authorities is now at its lowest ebb. And there is no expectation of a major revival of investment in private renting. Housing associations, supported by the statutory Housing Corporation, can fill the gap and can improve housing conditions on a wide scale, in partnership with local councils.

Recent public expenditure reductions have led us to pursue new sources of investment, including building societies and private developers. But we believe that the provision of homes to rent for those with lower incomes will require government subvention for some time to come. This leads us to underline the need and the value of national support for the continuation of this vital work.

As well as helping to cure one of the greatest social evils of our time, providing decent homes for those on lower incomes generates much-needed employment in the construction industry. And these efforts are concentrated on the people and in the areas that need them most.

National Federation of Housing Associations
175 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8UP

This statement is sponsored by twelve of Britain's largest housing associations: Anchor Housing Association, The Guinness Trust, Hanover Housing Association, Jephson Housing Association, London & Quadrant Housing Trust, Merseyside Improved Houses, North British Housing Association, North Housing Association, Notting Hill Housing Trust, The Royal British Legion Housing Association, The Sutton Housing Trust, and WPHT Housing Association.

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

New dilemmas from pound's recovery

Yet again, it was the dollar that was the moving spirit in the foreign exchange markets yesterday; but yet again, it was gold and the pound that stood out as the main beneficiaries. Gold gained seven dollars in London to close at \$331.25 an ounce, an advance that was preceded and supported by overnight gains in Hong Kong and followed by heavy trading on Comex in New York, where at one stage the price jumped to \$334.

The Gulf War is making the gold market nervous; but the dollar is still seen as the key. The same balance of influences helped push the pound up a staggering 5.8 cents in London, to close there at \$1.2395 - the kind of exchange rate untouched since last November.

But sterling's rise against other currencies, as the outflow from the dollar focused on the British currency, increased the sterling index by an even more significant jump of nearly two full points. It closed at 77.6 - a level unknown since last September.

This reflected gains against all major currencies, but it is the rise against the German mark that is the most significant. The pound closed in London at over DM3.85 - quite as high as it was a year ago, whereas its recovery against the dollar has some way to go before reaching the level of about \$1.40-\$1.45 seen last March. More to the point, the pound was standing last night well above the range of DM3.70-DM3.80 in which Britain appeared to be shadowing the European currencies last summer.

Mr Lawson appears to prefer the independence of shadow membership of the European Monetary System, from which he can resign and rejoin from week to week. But the dilemmas remain the same. If he allows the pound to rise too far against the German currency, Britain will begin to lose intra-European competitiveness - particularly since inflation is lower in West Germany than in the United Kingdom. With talk of a cut in German interest rates, British rates are beginning to look awkwardly high; the three-bank interbank rate closed yesterday at 13 1/2 per cent.

Mr Lawson has helped to engineer the pound's recovery by demonstrating his readiness to keep interest rates up. The results, however, are beginning to look a little unbalanced. As unease about the American dollar spreads (fed yesterday by a lower than expected Federal Funds rate and by rumours of financial difficulties in Texas after the decline in energy prices) the pound may be receiving a more-than-digestible share of the backwash.

Housing shadow over inflation

The new weights for the retail price index, published in the Department of Employment's gazette today, confirm the upward trend in housing costs in the measurement of overall inflation.

The weight of housing costs in the RPI has risen to 15.3 parts per 1,000, compared with 14.9 last year - and only 10.8 back in 1975.

This year, however, could be the last that housing costs appear in the RPI in their present form.

The building societies have argued that

to take mortgage rates in the RPI - but not interest rates payable to savers - is one-sided. But an expenditure index cannot be adjusted to accommodate income; so the easiest solution is to exclude housing costs from the RPI, whatever the accusations of fiddling the figures.

In the meantime, the Government has to live with a housing boost to inflation. Its upward pressure is shown clearly in the Treasury's red book forecast for inflation, published on Budget day.

The Treasury expects the RPI to rise by 5 per cent in the 12 months to the fourth quarter of this year. In the same period, the housing component of the index is expected to increase by 7 per cent.

This housing component is pushed up by house price inflation, feeding through into larger mortgages. In the 12 months to the fourth quarter of last year, for example, this higher house price (and biggest mortgage) effect accounted for 2 1/2 points of the 10 1/2 per cent rise in the index of housing costs.

The Treasury is likely to be assuming a similar effect this year, so that 2 1/2-3 points of the 7 per cent are accounted for immediately. A further 2 points come from the 6.2 per cent rise in local authority rates assumed by the Treasury, and 1.7 points from the 7.2 per cent rise in council house rents. The remaining half point comes from assuming that the costs of repairs and ground rents group roughly in line with general inflation.

The 7 per cent rise is arrived at without any change in mortgage rates: assuming, in other words, that mortgage rates at the end of this year are the same as in the fourth quarter of last year - when they averaged little over 12 per cent.

Should mortgage rates remain at their current level of 14 per cent for the year, the Treasury's inflation forecast would be upset. The housing component of the index would rise 12 per cent, rather than 7 per cent; and the overall inflation rate would be nudged up to 6 per cent.

Britannia Arrow on right path

Yesterday's revelation that Britannia Arrow is planning to build up a retail broking chain through Heselton Moss makes good commercial sense. Britannia refused to pay a fancy multiple for its 29.9 per cent stake in the stockbroking firm, and has also eschewed the City's urge to merge, preferring instead to push ahead with long-term plans to build up its own banking and insurance businesses. A retail broking chain, with spin-offs into the other divisions, fits in quite neatly.

The development contains elements of historical irony. Broadly, this is where Singer and Friedlander, the banking arm of Britannia, came in. The accepting house, which joined Britannia in April last year, made a name by floating provincial companies. Subsequently, Singer and Friedlander enjoyed lively times, as first C. T. Bowring, and then European Ferries owned it - although one man, Anthony Solomons, consistently directed it.

Britannia Arrow has also enjoyed a variegated career, rising from the ruins of the Slater, Walker empire, initially with nothing but tax losses and an investment management business. It now finds itself in the unexpected, and unwanted, shadow of Guinness Peat, which has acquired a quarter of the equity - seen, if nothing else, as "a good investment".

Both Michael Newman (ex-Slater, Walker) and Tony Solomons, chief executive and deputy chairman respectively at Britannia, yesterday solemnly affirmed their commitment to cautious trading. As if to prove their point, they produced a solid profits performance, with the pretax figure up £4 million to £14.1 million; a dividend increased from 2.2p to 2.5p; and, wonder of wonders, investment profits taken below the line. The price last night was 100p.

Profits rise 44% to record £1.4bn at BAT Industries

By Our City Staff

BAT Industries, the tobacco, retailing, and insurance group, led the way yesterday as four of Britain's top companies reported their results. BAT showed itself as Britain's most profitable non-oil company, with 1984 pretax profits of £1.4 billion, outstripping ICI, which became the first non-oil company to pass the £1 billion mark last month.

The profits from BAT, up 44 per cent on the £979 million reported last time, received a double boost from Eagle Star insurance company, which it acquired last year. That contributed a first-time £125 million, but this was boosted by an extra profit of £95 million arising from a controversial change in its accounting policy for the investment portfolio.

BAT also benefited from the pound's weakness against the dollar. Currency translation added £205 million to profits.

Yesterday's strength of sterling helped knock 25p off the BAT share price which closed at 328p.

The results for 1985 will be affected by the dollar's performance, but Mr Patrick Sheehy, the chairman, said the businesses in both the industrialized world and developing countries continued to progress in a more encouraging environment.

Shareholders are rewarded with a final dividend of 6.25p making 10.3p for the year, an increase of 25 per cent.

Interim results for the Burton Group showed profits for the 26 weeks to March 2 ahead by 33 per cent, to £34.7 million, after sales improved by a third to £264 million. Burton's chairman, Mr Ralph Halpern also reported an improvement in trading profits of 37 per cent, and an increase in the net margin from 12.7 per to 13.1 per cent.



Patrick Sheehy: business continues to progress

The interim dividend goes up from 2p to 2.5p, and group employment has improved by some 1,000.

"Another successful half-year has been achieved by contributing to the lifestyle needs of customers through retail chains which are targeted on clearly

defined sectors of the clothing market", commented Mr Halpern.

Babcock International saw pretax profits fall in 1984 from £34 million to £31.6 million, on broadly unchanged sales of £1 billion. A proposed final payment of 4.3p should take the full-year payment to 8p, up 14.3 per cent on 1983.

Meanwhile, underwriting losses on the Prudential Corporation's general insurance business more than doubled last year, from £76.9 million to £161.4 million.

Announcing its 1984 results yesterday, the company disclosed that despite an 18 per cent increase in investment income its overall trading loss rose sharply from £7.6 million to £79.7 million. As a result, pretax profits fell by more than 22 per cent, from £101 million to £78 million.

The company was hit by steadily increasing numbers of claims. *Tempus, page 26*

Norcross accepts £113m offer

By Alison Eadie

Norcross, the industrial company with interests in ceramics, construction, engineering and print and packaging, has made a £113.24 million agreed bid for UBM, the builders' merchants. Norcross already owns 36.2 per cent of UBM, which it acquired at 127p a share in 1983 when it made its abortive bid for UBM, against a current bid price of 192p a share.

UBM's shares were flagging a renewed bid when they rose 2 1/2 to 160p at the start of the week. The Stock Exchange then suspended both them and Norcross shares and is now conducting an investigation to see whether there is any evidence of insider trading.

Norcross's previous bid, which lapsed in October 1983, was worth £75 million. Mr Terry Simpson, chief executive of Norcross, said the price seemed right at the time. Since then UBM's profits and share price have risen strongly.

The agreement of the UBM board was secured this time both by the higher price and because having a shareholder with 36.2 per cent stake was unsatisfactory.

The terms of their bid are seven new Norcross shares and 840p cash for 10 UBM shares, or a cash alternative at 189p a share. Approximately 27.7 million new Norcross shares will be created making 22.3 per cent of

the enlarged equity. The cash element will cost £33.3 million. UBM has estimated taxable profits in the year to February 28 of £13.5 million against £10.2 million and Norcross has forecast £34 million to March 31 against £35.0 million, and a 15 per cent dividend increase.

Martin profit

R-P Martin, the money broker, which is being taken over in an agreed bid worth £43.9 million by Quadrex, an investment banking group, yesterday reported interim pretax profits of £4.2 million compared with £4 million. There is no interim dividend.

Gatt fears trade 'disaster'

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

Failure to deal now with the grave problems facing international trade "is a prescription for escalating troubles and, eventually, disaster", according to a report prepared for the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Trade policies for a better future - proposals for action in the work of seven economists headed by Mr Fritz Leutwiler, until the end of last year chairman of the Swiss National Bank and president of the Bank for International Settlements.

Their 15 recommendations for immediate action to meet the crisis include bringing the making of trade policy into the open, so that taxpayers and consumers can see how much protectionism, subsidies and other market restrictions cost.

All countries, they underline, are failing to apply GATT rules properly, especially in agriculture. They also recommend the winding up from next year of the Gatt multilateral arrangement (MFA) on trade in textiles and clothing.

Whitbread lifts stake in M Brown

By Cliff Feltham

The Whitbread brewing group appears to be coming to the rescue of Matthew Brown, the Lancashire brewer fighting off an £88 million takeover bid from Scottish and Newcastle.

Whitbread Investment Trust, Whitbread's investment which already owned just over 5 per cent of Matthew Brown, announced yesterday that it had now raised its stake to 8.84 per cent - seen as a sign that it wants to keep the brewer independent.

But a spokesman for Whitbread Investment Trust denied it was trying to get embroiled in the battle. He said: "We look upon this purely as an investment."

However, the move provoked a sharp response from Mr Alick Rankin, chief executive of Scottish and Newcastle, who said: "We didn't enter into an acquisition situation to be put off by Whitbread."

In the stock market, Matthew Brown shares held steady at 428p, against the 361p value of the all-share bid.

In a separate announcement, Whitbread confirmed it was involved in legal battles to hold on to its Mouton Cadet wines and Finlandia vodka brands in the United States.

Irish insurer 'may have lost £99m'

The troubled Insurance Corporation of Ireland which is being taken over by the Irish government faces losses of not more than £120 million (£99 million). Introducing a Bill to take the company over from its owners, Allied Irish Bank, Mr John Bruton, Irish industry minister, said there was no reason to believe that losses were outside the £120 million to £160 million range.

Allied Irish Bank, which bought the insurer for £286 million in 1983, is providing £120 million in an interest-free loan to the government to help the rescue. A further £50 million loan from other banks has already been arranged. Mr Bruton has already hinted that a surcharge of around 1 per cent on all Irish insurance policies is likely.

Rosehaugh stake

Rosehaugh, a company headed by Mr Godfrey Bradman, has taken a 49.9 per cent stake in Village Homes, formed to develop and manage purpose-built nursing homes for the elderly.

Tool Group, the textile company fighting an unwanted bid from Australian Entad group, made pretax profits in the year to January 31 of £22.85 million, 33 per cent up on 1983/4. Sales were 12.4 per cent higher at £435.4 million. The shares rose 1/2p to 73p. Entad is offering 70p cash.

Frogmore rise

Frogmore Estates, the renamed Fairview Estates, made pre-tax profits of £4.62 million for the half year to December 31, a 15 per cent increase on the previous figure. The Company's switch from being a housebuilding and investment operation is nearly complete with land sales reducing debts by 30 per cent to just over £24 million. The interim dividend is 1.78p a share and the estimated net asset value is 209p compared with 194p a share last year.

Growing Japan

Japan's economy will grow a real 5.5 per cent in the year starting April 1 after an expected 5.8 per cent growth in 1984/85, according to the Japan Economic Research Centre in Tokyo.

FROM FAIRVIEW ESTATES PLC

TO FROGMORE ESTATES PLC

In pursuance of the Company's policy agreed in 1982, its planned withdrawal from house building is substantially completed.

To underline its new status with a concentration of activities into commercial and industrial property investment, the Company's name has been changed to Frogmore Estates plc.

Interim Results (Unaudited)

	6 months to 31 Dec 84	6 months to 31 Dec 83
£000's	£000's	
Turnover	17,073	19,563
Profit Before Taxation	4,626	4,021
Taxation	(1,855)	(1,287)
Profit After Taxation	2,771	2,734
Interim Dividend	613	550
Net Amount per share	1.765p	1.607p
Earnings per share	8.0p	8.0p
Estimated Net Asset Value per share	209p	194p
Contracted Rent Roll	£6,297m	£5,159m

Dividend

A Net Interim Dividend of 1.788p per share will be paid on 10th May 1985 to shareholders registered at close of business on 25th April 1985. This represents an increase of 10%.

Highlights from Chairman's Statement

- * Pre-tax profit at £4.626m is up 15% and the estimated net asset value is now 209p per share.
- * Interim dividend is up by 10% and covered 4.5 times by earnings.
- * Contracted Rent Roll is up by 22% to nearly £6.3m.
- * Activity on lettings, pre-lettings and new development projects is at a high level.
- * Borrowings are down by 30% to just over £24m. This reduced gearing and consequent increased financial strength enables the further development and investment opportunities currently available to be grasped.
- * The phased withdrawal from house building is substantially complete.

FROGMORE HALL
WATTON-AT-STONE
HERTFORDSHIRE
SG14 3RW
TEL: WARE (0920) 830033
TELEX: 817058 FROGMO

FROGMORE
ESTATES PLC

BTR gains control of Dunlop

By Ian Griffiths

BTR, the industrial holding company, has won official control of Dunlop. It confirmed yesterday that more than 50 per cent of Dunlop's preference and ordinary shareholders had accepted the terms of the £101 million bid which has now been declared wholly unconditional.

The outcome of what had been a hotly contested takeover was in no doubt after the Dunlop board, chaired by Sir Michael Edwards, decided to recommend a revised bid from BTR earlier in the month, which substantially raised the original £33 million offer. At the time of the revision, the Malaysian Pegi Corporation, which owns 26 per cent of Dunlop, said that it would accept the new terms.

The combined group will have a turnover approaching £5 billion. However, BTR will have to take on board the massive debts which Dunlop has run up in recent years. At the end of 1984 Dunlop owed its banks £513 million, but that figure has been reduced through divestments.

The British subsidiary of Pirelli yesterday reported an after-tax profit of £4.6 million for 1984, up from under £250,000 the year before. Sales were up by 13 per cent to £143 million.

Budget 'will create 200,000 jobs'

By Jonathan Davis, Business Correspondent

The budget extensions of the Youth Training Scheme and the community programme could reduce unemployment by an estimated 200,000 by early 1988, Treasury officials said yesterday.

Giving evidence to the House of Commons Treasury Select Committee, Mr Anthony Battisill, head of the Central Unit at the Treasury, gave the estimates. He said that the

community programme extension alone would produce an extra 100,000 jobs. Taken together with the training scheme extension, it could reduce unemployment by "something over 150,000" and in two years' time by "perhaps 200,000" by the start of the following year.

Mr Battisill said it was impossible to prophesy the likely impact of the Chancellor's

restructuring of national insurance contributions in favour of the lower paid.

Earlier, another Treasury official denied that the decision to allocate an extra £5 billion to the contingency reserve over the next three years implied either that the Treasury was expecting not to meet its public spending plans or that it implied a tightening of the Chancellor's fiscal stance.

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

FT Ind Ord	979.3(-2.7)
FT-A All Share	N/A
FT Govt Securities	81.06(+0.28)
FT-SE 100	1,288.0(-2.4)
Bargains	26,986
Dataseam USM	113.69(-0.48)
New York	1,284.35(+4.84)
Tokyo	12,550.82(+64.87)
Nikkei Dow	1,360.65(+6.52)
Hong Kong	204.2(+0.3)
Amsterdam	826.5(+8.8)
Sydney: AO	1,183.2(-21.1)
Frankfurt	255.93(-15.13)
Commerzbank	210.4(+1.0)
General	243.00(unchanged)
Zurich	
SKA General	

GOLD

London fixing:	
am \$328.90-pm \$330.40	
1984, up from under	
close \$331.25-\$289.75	
New York:	
Comex (latest)	\$330.8

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
Jarvis	24 +11
PCT Grp	170 +30
Plastic Construction	62 +10
UBM Grp	187 +27
CIFER	15 +2
Reardon Smith "A"	12 1/2 +1 1/2
J Wilkes	265 +25
Feedback	103 +10
Arncliffe Hidge	32 +3
Miss World Grp	270 +25
Reardon Smith	23 +2
Bristol Oil & Min.	25 +2
Supra Grp	40 +3
Kwahu	27 +2
Campari Int	30 +2
Ryan Int	15 +1
FALLS:	
Ben Bailey	27 -7
Zygal Dynamics	25 -5
Stonechamps	13 -2
Feedex Ag	26 -3
Jonas Woodhead	22 -2
Cecil Gee	170 -15
Norcross	154 -13
Buroo Dean	24 -2
BAT Ind	328 -25

CURRENCIES

London:	
\$: \$1.2320 (+0.0508)	
DM: 3.8588 (+0.0620)	
Sfr: 3.2696 (+0.0548)	
FF: 11.8026 (+0.2118)	
Yen: 310.71 (+8.98)	
Index: 77.6 (+1.9)	
New York:	
\$: \$1.2360	
DM: 3.1300	
Index: 147.3 (-2.3)	
ECU: 50.58430	
SDR: 10.82652	
US:	
Prime Rate: 10.5%	
Federal Funds: 7 1/2%	
3-month Treasury Bill: 8.38-8.34%	
Long bond: 9 1/2%-9 3/4%	

INTEREST RATES

London:	
Bank Base: 15 1/2%	
3-month Interbank: 13 1/2%-13 3/4%	
3-month eligible bills:	
buying rate: 12 1/2%-12 3/4%	

WALL STREET

Mar 25	Mar 26	Mar 27	Mar 28
AMF Inc	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
AMR	30 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2
Alcoa	17 1/2	17 1/2	17 1/2
Allegiant	17 1/2	17 1/2	17 1/2
Alcoa	17 1/2	17 1/2	17 1/2
Alcoa	17 1/2	17 1/2	17 1/2
Alcoa	17 1/2	17 1/2	17 1/2
Alcoa	17 1/2	17 1/2	17 1/2
Alcoa	17 1/2	17 1/2	17 1/2
Alcoa	17 1/2	17 1/2	17 1/2

Busy start to trading

The stock market rose in early, active trading on the New York Stock Exchange. Prices opened higher, and the Dow Jones Industrial average, which fell 0.22 on Tuesday to 1,259.72, was up 4.19 to 1,263.91 at 11 a.m.

The NYSE index was up 0.43 to 103.71 and advances led declines 754-412 among the 1,649 issues trading on the tape. Analysts expected defence and related technology issues to show strength in reaction to a positive congressional vote on President Reagan's MX missile proposal.

The early volume leader was Sony, up 1/4 at 17 1/2. Interfirst was unchanged at 10 1/2 and ATT was up 1/4 at 21 1/2.

ITT Corp was up 1/4 at 34 1/2 and Motorola was up 1/4 at 33 1/2. Other notable issues: Unocal, up 1/4 to 64; McGraw-Hill, up 1/4 to 60; IBM, up 1/4 to 125 1/2; Digital Equipment, up 1/4 to 101; and Data General, up 1/4 to 43 and Chrysler up 1/4 to 35.

The credit markets opened slightly lower on the pressures of heavy supply and continuing weak overall demand from institutional investors.

The markets benefited from an extremely low Federal Funds rate, below 8 per cent. However, analysts said that was almost certainly technical and likely to be countered by a Federal Reserve drain of temporary reserves later in the day.

COMMODITIES

COMMODITIES	Mar 25	Mar 26	Mar 27	Mar 28
Gold	350.00	350.00	350.00	350.00
Silver	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00
Copper	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Aluminum	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
Steel	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10

APPOINTMENTS

British Telecom Business Systems: Mr Martin Glazebrook has been appointed chief executive.

Merrill Lynch Europe: Mr Gervase Buxton has joined Merrill Lynch Private Capital as managing director.

Marina & Port Services: Dr Douglas J. N. Corrie has been appointed managing director.

White Horse Distillers: Mr Forbes McCallum will become a director on April 1.

Clydesdale Bank: Lord Arbuthnot and Mr Alexander

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD	Mar 25	Mar 26	Mar 27	Mar 28
Interbank money	14 1/2	14 1/2	14 1/2	14 1/2
US 3M T-bill	14 1/2	14 1/2	14 1/2	14 1/2
Gold	350.00	350.00	350.00	350.00

EURO CURRENCY DEPOSITS	Mar 25	Mar 26	Mar 27	Mar 28
1 month	14 1/2	14 1/2	14 1/2	14 1/2
3 months	14 1/2	14 1/2	14 1/2	14 1/2
6 months	14 1/2	14 1/2	14 1/2	14 1/2
12 months	14 1/2	14 1/2	14 1/2	14 1/2

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Sterling went ahead by leaps and bounds on the currency markets, closing more than five cents ahead against the dollar at \$1.23 (1.812).

At the close the UK trade weighted index had surged to 77.6, from 75.7.

The pound also made strides against the mark to DM3.856 (3.7948).

The dollar found few friends, with dealers reporting little

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES	Mar 25	Mar 26	Mar 27	Mar 28
Three Month Sterling	99.45	99.45	99.45	99.45
Three Month Eurodollar	99.97	99.97	99.97	99.97
Three Month Eurodollar	99.97	99.97	99.97	99.97

AUTHORIZED UNIT TRUSTS

AUTHORIZED UNIT TRUSTS	Mar 25	Mar 26	Mar 27	Mar 28
1. Aberdeen Fund	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
2. Aberdeen Fund	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
3. Aberdeen Fund	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00

COMPANY NEWS

● METAL CLOSURES: Results for 1984. Final Div 4.5p (4.1p). Turnover £5,849,348 (£4,201,137). (Comptons restated). T/O 38.486 (80.577). Pretax profit 7,044 (7,077). Tax 2,763 (£2,839). Minorities 657 (636). Extraordinary debits 556 (nil). EPS 17.1p (16.8p). The board states that profitability improved during 1984 against the account of £5.05 million (£5.62 million). Pretax profit £1.32 million (£1.1 million). Tax £30,820 (£16,139). EPS 49.8p (38.02p).

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Troubled TI holds steady as Babcock bid is expected

By Derek Pain

Babcock International, the engineering group, which yesterday announced much better than expected profits, is thought to be contemplating a takeover bid for the troubled TI Group which produced disappointing results this month.

Lord King, Babcock's chairman, apparently feels that the group's City image would be improved if it could become more involved in consumer products.

And TI, which many feel would welcome a bidder at the right price, would satisfy such an ambition with its array of products ranging from Raleigh cycles to Tower housewares.

If Babcock is planning a TI assault, it could not have picked a better time. At one time there were hopes that the group would record profits of around £35 million. In the event it achieved £19 million, up a mere

25p to 328p. Distillers Co., with the added problem of a large line of stock which is taking a long time to clear, slipped another 1p to 256p. Imperial Chemical Industries, which has had a good run lately, fell 20p to 791p.

With sterling enjoying a spectacular day against the dollar, gilts recorded gains of up to 1/2p. But inflationists gilts had another poor day, suffering falls of up to 1/2p.

Standard Telephones and Cables offered a little comfort to the market when it disclosed that its controversial rights issue had been 93 per cent taken up. STC shares displayed their relief with a 6p gain to 204p. The rights price was 190p.

The FT 30 share index closed 2.7 points lower at 979.3 after starting the day with a modest gain. It has fallen 13.1 points in the opening three days of the current three-week account.

The more broadly based FT SE share index closed 2.4 points off at 1,288.0. Thorn EMI remained overshadowed by the problems at its Immos offshoot. The shares at one time were down to 398p, a fall of 23p since *The Times* disclosed market worries over the microelectronic business. They closed at 402p.

Ranks Hovis McDougall, the bread group, finished 4p down at 154p while Hanson Trust, after the "buy" signal from Laine and Cruickshank, the broker, gained 2p to 213p. Other FT 30 index constituents to make headway included British Telecom, up to a 142p peak, a 3 1/2p gain on the day, following strong Far Eastern interest. The transatlantic favourite Beecham Group advanced 10p to 380p.

Life insurers were helped by better-than-expected figures from Prudential Assurance. Among composites, Commercial Union rose 5p to 205p. The BAT treatment of Eagle Star's profits, which threw up an extra 295 million, was good for composites as analysts contemplated other insurers adopting the same course.

British Aerospace rose 15p to 403p on satisfaction with its figures and Morgan Crucible lost 12p to 213p on its £20 million cash call.

Lord King and his team believes it would be possible to improve on the TI performance. And Babcock can be expected to pursue its TI ambitions.

Babcock's profits, despite the erosion of the miners' strike, came out at £31.6 million (£34.1 million). The shares rose 8p to 153p. TI shares, after slipping 2p, closed unchanged at 226p.

For the second successive day the stock market was dominated by a near deluge of company results. Although the prancing pound helped government stocks, it also tended to clip the shares of leading overseas earners.

Jaguar, for example, tumbled 18p to 299p; BAT Industries, despite scintillating figures, fell

The £120 million Norcross bid for UBM left Norcross at 154p, down 13p, and UMB up 27p at 187p.

Terriff Corporation gained 10p to 340p on the continuing interest of Mr Christopher Selmes, the financier.

Waring and Gillow, the stores group, slipped 5p to 150p on the big Hopcastle, the consortium led by Mr Cyril Spencer.

Oil shares were mixed all round.

The bid from Park Place Investment lifted Trident Computers 5p to 76p.

Jantar, the mining group, achieved the day's best gain, up 11p at 24p on its dramatic trading turnaround - profits of £233,000 against £26,000 loss. The dividend is 2.5p a share compared with 0.5p.

J. Wilkes came in for a speculative run, gaining 25p to 255p, and Miss World managed a 25p gain to 270p after its shareholders' meeting.

European Ferries stirred on vague talk of a stake builder. The shares gained 6p to 151p.

Debenhams, with a little help from the emergence of a bid for Waring and Gillow, came in for attention. Stories of a bid - Harris Queensway or Heron Corporation - moved the shares 7p higher to 214p. But other stores were firm, helped by interest rate optimism.

Banks were dull with Royal Bank of Scotland down 8p as bid hopes faded. Gold shares rose by \$1 to \$5.

COMPANY NEWS

TRIDENT COMPUTER SERVICES: Trident and Park Place Investments have agreed terms on which a recommended offer will be made by Park Place for Trident.

Park Place and Trident have received irrevocable undertakings to accept the offer for 1.95 million ordinary shares in Trident, representing 78 per cent of the issued capital of Trident. Terms: one new Park Place ordinary for every two Trident ordinary.

The changes could lead to a substantial below the line write off.

Pentland Industries, at one time up 8p to 546p on a broker's circular, closed only 2p higher at 540p.

Christies International the auctioneer, shrugged off the stronger pound. With figures due on Tuesday, it gained 12p to 625p. Pearson, also reporting on Tuesday, was 7p higher at 699p.

The bid from Park Place Investment lifted Trident Computers 5p to 76p.

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Banks were dull with Royal Bank of Scotland down 8p as bid hopes faded. Gold shares rose by \$1 to \$5.

BIOMECHANICS INTERNATIONAL: Turnover £69,130 (£138,738) for year 1984.

CHARTERHALL: Half-year to Dec. 31, compared with previous year, int. div. 0.6p (0.6p for full yr). Figs. in 2000. Turnover £275 (£274). Pre-tax profit 3,074 (£297). Tax 1,100 (6). EPS 3.45p (1.31p).

RECENT ISSUES

Company	Price
BT Group 10p Ord (800)	185-1
Bedford (RM) 5p Ord (a)	138
Blaird Toys 10p Ord (200)	85
Corn Tern 10p Ord (100)	80-5
Crown Int Prod 10p Ord (800)	182
Curtain Hinge 10p Ord	180-2
German Smelter 10p Ord	180-2
Midland Hinge 10p Ord	180-2
Merrill & Co 20p Ord (100)	123-2
Manicom Int 10p Ord (a)	200
Customer & Little 5p Ord (125)	200
Pacific Atlantic 10p Ord (100)	78
Paper Group 10p Ord (100)	96-5
Spain Group 10p Ord (100)	133-2
Spartan Television 25p Ord (800)	108-4
Synapse Comp Serv 5p Ord (174)	21
Whitworth's Food 5p Ord (500)	113

Issue price in parentheses a United Securities, "by tender."

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SOVEREIGN OIL & GAS PLC

Year ended 31st December	1984 (Unaudited) £million	1983 £million
• TURNOVER	54.6	6.8
• PRE-TAX PROFITS	18.2	3.4
• POST-TAX PROFITS	10.6	3.4
• EARNINGS PER SHARE	28.32p	9.33p

- South Brae reaches peak production
- North Brae development on target for 1988
- East Brae delineation confirms commerciality
- Central Brae successfully appraised
- Ninth round cash tender block 2/20 awarded
- 'Sovereign Explorer' encounters gas in frontier drilling
- Emerald production test increases confidence for development
- Claymore acquisition increases total production to 8,000 barrels/day

If you would like a copy of the 1984 Annual Report, which will be published in early May, please fill in the coupon below and send it to:
The Company Secretary, Sovereign Oil & Gas PLC,
Portland House, Stag Place, London SW1E 5BH

Name: _____
Address: _____

Leading the lifestyle revolution

A strategy for success

Results for the half-year to 2nd March 1985

- Sales up 33% to £264m
- Pre-tax profit up 33% to £34.7m
- Interim dividend up from 2p to 2.5p
- 88 new trading outlets
- Sales value of British goods up by £55m
- Employment up by 1000

The future

"Another successful half-year has been achieved by contributing to the lifestyle needs of customers through retail chains which are targeted on clearly defined sectors of the clothing market."

The Group's continuing programme of investment, which will this year exceed £75m, and the extension of product ranges are expected further to expand sales, profits and market share."

Ralph Halpern
Chairman

To find out more about The Burton Group send for a copy of the Interim Statement and the Annual Report from: The Secretary, The Burton Group PLC, 8-11 Great Castle Street, London W1N 7AD

THE BURTON GROUP PLC
Contributing to Lifestyle

VG INSTRUMENTS PLC

RESULTS - 1984

£m	1984	1983
Turnover	50.9	38.6
Profit before taxation	10.6	7.3
Profit attributable to shareholders	5.7	3.9
Earnings per share	11.78p	7.90p

1984 was a successful year for the Company and the Directors are pleased to announce a final dividend of 1.20p per share.

Copies of the Annual Report will be available shortly from the Secretary, 28 Brighton Road, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 6AE.

BABCOCK INTERNATIONAL PLC.

ANNUAL RESULTS FOR 1984

CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT for the financial year ended 30th December 1984

	1984 £000	1983 £000
Turnover	1,129,764	1,016,283
Trading Profit	31,487	37,411
Profit on Ordinary Activities before Taxation	31,600	34,082
Profit for the Financial Year (1983 loss)	16,411	(6,959)
Retained Profit for the Year (1983 loss)	6,986	(15,546)
Earnings per ordinary share	16.2p	17.6p

MAJOR POINTS FROM 1984

- Profitability increased in USA
- Impact of miners' strike was severe in UK
- Cost reduction continues
- Orders for 1984 exceeded £1 bn

Babcock International plc,
Cleveland House,
St James's Square,
London SW1Y 4LN.

Babcock

COATS PATONS PLC

1984 RESULTS AND FINAL DIVIDEND

We continue to make excellent progress with pre-tax profit breaking through the £100m level for the first time, 26% higher than 1983.

Earnings for ordinary shareholders increased by 35% and with no extraordinary items, profit for the year at £64.7m is double last year's level.

Final dividend increases by 20% giving a 17% increase for the year.

We look forward to 1985 with confidence.

HIGHLIGHTS		
	1984 £ millions	1983 £ millions
Turnover	1,076.0	888.0
Trading Profit	121.8	94.5
Pre-tax Profit	109.8	87.0
Capital Expenditure		
U.K.	26.7	17.4
Total	69.9	49.1
Net cash flow	(27.3)	(8.8)
Gearing	31%	26%
Earnings per share	23.4p	17.3p
C.C. Earnings per share	12.5p	7.0p

The figures for the year to 31st December 1984 are abridged from the Group's full accounts which will be filed with the Registrar of Companies after the Annual General Meeting. The historical cost accounts have received an unqualified auditors' report.

The directors recommend an increased final dividend of 3.85p per share (1983: 3.2p) which together with the interim dividend of 1.65p (1983: 1.5p) amounts to 5.5p per share (1983: 4.7p). This dividend will be payable on 1st July to shareholders on the register on 10th May 1985.

"With some recovery expected in the U.S.A., we look forward to 1985 with confidence, provided there are no substantial adverse exchange movements of the major currencies in which we trade."

W. D. Coats, Chairman

The Annual Report will be posted to shareholders on 1st May, 1985. Further copies will be available from The Secretary, Coats Patons PLC, 155 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5PA.

COMPANY NEWS

Carpets in profit again

Carpets International returned to the black in 1984 with pre-tax profits of £1.42 million against a loss of £630,000. Turnover fell from £81.44 million to £73.25 million.

The tax charge was down from £1.27 million to £910,000. Earnings per share were 4.5p compared with a loss per share of 7.9p. Carpets' shares lost 8p to 49½p.

● **MINERALS AND RESOURCES CORP.** Half-year to Dec 31. Figures in millions of dollars. Earnings from operations 28.5 (about £24 million), against 33.7. Interim dividend six cents. Net profit 22 (205.7). Minorities 600,000 (same). Share of undistributed earnings 34.5 (42.3). Extraordinary items (loss) 40.4 (profit 130.3). Extraordinary loss represents equity share of Charter Consolidated extraordinary losses. The company's financial position remained strong with shareholders' equity value at 1.9 billion on Dec 31 debt amounting to 36 dls. The company has predicted reduced earnings for the year compared with last year's 55.1 but expects to maintain the total dividend at last year's level.

● **DRG:** Results for 1984. Total dividend 7.5p. Fig. 100.0. Earnings per share 1.65p. Turnover 605.7 (543.4). Operating profit 32 (22.6), comprising UK 22 (16.7) and overseas 10 (5.9). Pre-tax profit 26 (16.1). The board states that the company has strengthened its management, improved the financial position and the quality of the business portfolio, and looks to progress both by organic growth and through acquisition which it is actively seeking in related areas.

● **PRESSAC HOLDINGS:** Results for six months to January 31. Interim dividend 0.7p (0.7p). (Figures in £000). Turnover 8895 (9021). Pre-tax profit 411 (1002). Tax 174 (393). Minority 15 (credit 41) after attributable 222 (650). Earnings per share 2.52p (7.86p).

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	14%
Adam & Company	13½%
Bardays	13½%
BCCI	13½%
Citibank Savings	11½%
Consolidated Crds	14%
Continental Trust	13½%
C. Hoare & Co	13½%
London Bank	13½%
Midland Bank	13½%
Nat Westminster	13½%
TSB	13½%
Williams & Glyn's	13½%
Citibank NA	14%

* Mortgage Base Rate.
* 7 day deposits on terms of under £2,000, 10½%; £2,000 up to £10,000, 11½%; £10,000 up to £50,000, 11½%; £50,000 and over, 12%.

TEMPUS

Eagle-eyed accountants find £95m for BAT

BAT Industries could hardly have picked a worse day to announce its 1984 figures, which included a controversial change in accounting policy for its Eagle Star subsidiary. As a company whose fortunes closely follow that of the dollar, the dramatic rise in sterling was always going to take its toll on the share price.

To add to the disquiet, the change in accounting, which added £95 million to Eagle Star's profits, generated a lot of wariness. The net effect was that the share price dropped 25p to 328p.

The reaction must have been a little galling for BAT. Even after stripping out the extra £95 million, profits were still at the top end of expectations. The reported pre-tax figure of £1,405 million was 44 per cent up on £979 million in 1983. There was a hefty £205 million benefit from currency translations, but this apart, and leaving out acquisitions, the company still showed genuine growth of 10 per cent.

However, it is the change in accounting policy which is likely to provide some of the most heated debate among City analysts. BAT has decided that in future it will recognize realized gains and unrealized increases in the investment portfolio, based on a five-year moving average, as income. On balance, the benefit of greater disclosure which is now made in Eagle Star's accounts must outweigh the criticism that this is simply a ploy by BAT to make its investment in Eagle Star look a little better.

Certainly, Eagle Star had a poor year but this investment must be judged on the longer term. On fundamentals, the shares still look cheap. There is an argument for profit-taking but on a long-term view BAT will not disappoint.

Burton Group wrapped up its interim figures in modern retail jargon ("contributing to the lifestyle needs of customers") and backed them with some sharp-suited razzmatazz. But the Technicolor backing was

hardly necessary; the figures are very good.

Interim profits are ahead by a third to £33 million, after a similar percentage sales gain. Trading margins rose nearly half of one per cent to 13.1 per cent, contributing an extra £1 million to profits. A full year outcome of £75 million looks quite feasible.

Over the medium term, Mr Ralph Halpern, Burton chairman and saviour, has set himself some very ambitious targets. The opening programme envisages a total chain of some 1,650 shops - up 58 per cent on current levels - and annual profits of well over £100 million by the late eighties, assuming profits per shop of over £60,000.

Whether the group meets its targets via organic growth is another matter. First-half volume gains in sales are down quite sharply to 1.1 per cent while short-term debt has risen, and may total £20 million by the year-end. Net interest has shown a downturn into the red of £1.4 million and the cost of rapid expansion may be growing. Mr Halpern's trading gearing is intriguing.

This places the group's categoric refusal to countenance higher short-term debt in specific context. Will the group be tempted to use its high-valued paper either to raise fresh capital, or to buy rival retail chains comparatively cheaply? Perhaps even a vendor placing is on the way.

Prudential

The Prudential Corporation sprang no big surprises in its year-end results. Its pre-tax profit fell 22 per cent from £101 million in 1983 to £78 million last year, this was much as expected, considering the depressing insurance market conditions.

The stock market, however, showed signs of excitement and the Pru's shares rose from 593p to 616p. An unexpectedly generous 22.5p dividend for the year, up 3.5p from 1983 may have helped.

The dividend payment is costing £67 million but the company justifies it on the

grounds of a strong solvency margin of 66 per cent, an advance in long-term profits and strengthening premium rates.

Prudential Assurance, Britain's largest life assurance company, had another good year with premium income on ordinary business rising 14 per cent to £521.6 million. Overall, long term business showed an increase in premium income of 19 per cent to £1.8 billion, with shareholders' profits up from £89.3 million to £136.1 million.

The Pru's swingeing increases in many of its household insurance premium rates last year gave a forecast of its problems. At the end of the year British trading profits had risen from £2.1 million to £30.2 million. General insurance business produced a sharply increased loss of £80 million compared with £7.6 million in 1983.

Much of this stemmed from Mercantile & General, the reinsurer arm where losses trebled to £62.4 million. This was despite a more selective approach to new business.

Babcock

Babcock makes the point that with a little good fortune the results for 1984 might have been entirely different from the £2.5 million downturn to £31.6 million. The miners' strike may well have cost the group some £6.5 million in lost profit, mainly because of orders not placed or deferred.

Contract provisions and redundancy charges, taken above the line, came to around £8 million. US profits pushed ahead by £5 million to £15.4 million, but these figures contain £6 million of losses from badly performing American subsidiaries.

The target profits figure could have been £50 million, but that estimate remains fairly notional. Heavy engineering multinational, like Babcock, tend to stumble here and there every year.

The shares rose 9p yesterday to 533p on hopes that mining losses will be recouped this year. Bid and merger potential is in the rating for nothing.

Prudential Corporation

Group Results 1984

Total profits before tax in 1984 were £78.0m compared with £101.1m in 1983. There was a sharp increase in long-term profits but this was more than offset by substantial general insurance trading losses in two major divisions, United Kingdom and Mercantile & General. The directors have declared an increased final dividend of 15.0p per share, making a total of 22.5p for the year compared with 19.0p in 1983. The increase reflects the advance in long-term profits, the strength of the Group's financial position and our view of prospects for the future.

	1984 £m	1983 £m
Long-term Business:		
Premium income	1,837.5	1,542.8
Surplus for distribution	1,099.9	753.5
Policyholders' bonuses	1,011.3	694.5
Shareholders' profit before tax	136.1*	89.3
General Insurance:		
Premiums written	788.5	690.3
Underwriting result	(161.4)*	(76.9)
Investment income	81.5	69.3
Trading profit (loss) before tax	(79.9)	(7.6)
Shareholders' Other Income:		
Investment income	24.5	20.7
Miscellaneous net income	0.1	0.8
Expenses	(2.8)	(2.1)
Other income before tax	21.8	19.4
Profit and Loss Account Summary:		
Profit before tax from:		
Long-term business	136.1	89.3
General insurance	(79.9)	(7.6)
Shareholders' other income	21.8	19.4
Total profit before tax	78.0	101.1
Tax	(31.9)	(31.6)
Minority interests	(0.9)	(0.6)
Profit attributable to shareholders	45.2	68.9
Earnings per share	15.1p	23.1p
Dividend per share	22.5p	19.0p

* There are special features in these items, which are explained and quantified in the text.

1. This year, for the first time, shareholders' long-term profits are shown gross of the attributable tax. 1983 figures have been restated to reflect this and also a change in group accounting policy in 1984 in relation to reserving for accident non-proportional reinsurance business (see text).

2. The abridged income statement for 1984 is an extract from the latest accounts. These accounts have not yet been delivered to the Registrar of Companies, nor have the auditors reported on them.

Long-Term Business

We have again made substantial increases in benefits payable on UK with-profits policies. We have also converted a substantial part of the terminal bonus element on long standing assurance policies to reversionary form, to give policyholders greater certainty as to the eventual proceeds under their policies. The total value of

bonuses declared world-wide exceeded £1bn. Shareholders' profit before tax from long-term business was 52% higher at £136.1m. This includes a largely non-recurrent amount of £24.0m before tax at Prudential Assurance resulting from the conversion of terminal bonuses to reversionary form.

General Insurance Business

The general insurance trading loss before tax was sharply higher at £79.9m. Total premiums written rose by 14% in sterling

terms, or 7% adjusted for exchange rate movements.

	Premiums written		Underwriting result		Investment income		Trading profit (loss) before tax	
	1984	1983	1984	1983	1984	1983	1984	1983
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
UK Division	279.0	240.7	(54.8)	(25.6)	24.6	23.5	(30.2)	(2.1)
Overseas Division:								
Canada	100.9	92.1	(1.3)	4.4	8.2	8.0	8.0	12.4
EEC	51.2	42.2	(3.9)	(4.2)	7.5	6.3	3.6	2.1
Other Countries	19.5	17.6	(0.5)	(2.3)	1.8	1.5	1.1	(0.8)
London Market-Overseas	34.8	33.2	(5.8)	(5.8)	4.7	3.4	(1.1)	(2.4)
Total Overseas	206.4	185.1	(11.5)	(7.9)	23.1	19.2	11.6	11.3
Marine and Aviation	26.2	20.9	(1.5)	(3.5)	2.6	2.4	1.1	(1.1)
Mercantile & General	276.9	243.6	(93.6)	(39.9)	31.2	24.2	(62.4)	(15.7)
Total	788.5	690.3	(161.4)	(76.9)	81.5	69.3	(79.9)	(7.6)

In the United Kingdom the major features of the £30.2m trading loss before tax were significant increases in the number of

claims in most classes of business and bad weather claims of some £8.5m in the first quarter of the year.

In the Overseas Division there was a very satisfactory trading profit of £11.6m

before tax.

Mercantile & General

The sharply higher trading loss of £62.4m before tax has arisen principally on business written in earlier years. Following a thorough review of reserving policy we have strengthened the basis on which we estimate the required level of claims reserves. We have also decided to discount reserves for non-proportional accident business in order to reflect the long average time taken to settle claims which is characteristic of this class of business.

The effect of discounting has been to reduce the reported underwriting loss for 1984 by some £20m. The corresponding figure for 1983 would have been £3m and is reflected in the restated 1983 results. During the treaty renewal season at the end of 1984 we improved still further the terms on which we were prepared to continue to write business. Together with our sound reserves, this provides a basis for recovery.

Capital Resources

The total capital resources of the Group at the end of 1984 amounted to £535m,

equivalent to 66% of the general insurance premium income.

Copies of the Report and Accounts will be available on 1 May 1985.

Prudential Corporation plc, 142 Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH



PRUDENTIAL CORPORATION

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A B-A-T Industries Report
Preliminary results for the year ended 31 December 1984Profit up 44% - and again
doubled in three years

The acquisition of Eagle Star Holdings in January 1984 made this a year of great significance for the Group's strategic development, and the inclusion of financial services for the first time has an important impact on the Group's results.

The results of Eagle Star are now arrived at on a basis which recognises the contribution from changes in the market value of the general insurance business.

investment portfolio. This contributes £95 million of pre-tax earnings, in addition to what would have been reported under the previous policy used by Eagle Star.

Hambro Life's figures are not included in these results, since it joined the Group after the year-end, but its acquisition marks a further development of financial services as one of our four major business activities, along with tobacco, retailing and paper.

In 1984 B.A.T Industries again achieved a very fine performance. Pre-tax profit increased by 44 per cent to reach a record £1,405 million, and so once again has more than doubled within three years.

Group turnover from commercial activities increased by 22 per cent to £14,426 million, and there was also £1,077 million of premium income from financial services.

Group operating profit increased by 50 per cent to £1,465 million. This includes £1,148 million from commercial activities (35 per cent higher), £192 million from associated companies (54 per cent higher) and £125 million from the insurance operations of Eagle Star. Profit attributable to B.A.T Industries' shareholders increased by 43 per cent to £784 million.

The substantial increase in pre-tax profit once again demonstrates the Group's capacity to achieve real profit growth. Even after allowing for the exchange benefit from the strong dollar and the effects of changes in the composition of the Group, real growth over inflation of around 10 per cent has been achieved.

The recovery in tobacco continued, with volume steady and trading profit 29 per cent higher in sterling terms. Exchange rate fluctuations were an important factor, but higher selling prices and improved productivity provided elements of real growth in profitability. Brown & Williamson held its share of a slightly higher US market. There was a strong improvement in West Germany, and good Brazilian results were helped by leaf export profits. Barclay gained ground in Europe. There were good performances in Latin America, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Africa.

Retailing had a mixed year despite a 34 per cent increase in trading profit in sterling terms. Business in the US was influenced by high stocks and general price cutting, which affected most of BATUS Retail's companies, so that overall results in the US were less good than in 1983. But this was more than offset by the strength of the dollar, a sharp improvement in the UK, led by a very strong Argos performance, and the inclusion of four months' figures from Horten, which became a Group subsidiary in August. International Stores was sold to Dee Corporation at the end of the year.

Paper had an outstanding year, with trading profit 44 per cent higher. Appleton improved on an already impressive performance and is investing heavily in the strong growth of its North American markets, while in Europe and the UK, Wiggins Teape took full advantage of improved markets and several years of new investment and restructuring.

The insurance industry had a very poor year, and had Eagle

Star been acquired for its first year earnings alone it would have proved a disappointment. But in the context of long-term strategy its performance was encouraging, and its results, compared to those of other insurance companies, endorse our original view of the high quality of its management.

Mardon Packaging again showed a strong improvement, with volume growth in Europe and the UK, and trading profit up 46 per cent, despite strong competition.

Other trading activities now include Grovewood Securities, which achieved its seventeenth year of uninterrupted profit growth. The home improvements business in Germany suffered from a decline in consumer confidence. There was an encouraging profit performance from our enlarged interests in fruit juice in Brazil. Lower profits were reported by the cosmetics companies which since the year-end have been sold to the Beecham Group.

Our associated companies continued to grow rapidly in significance. Imasco was again a major contributor, with an increased market share in tobacco and further expansion in restaurants and drug stores. Aracruz in Brazil benefited greatly from high exports of pulp priced in US dollars.

Reflecting acquisitions and the growth of our existing businesses, the total net assets shown in the Group balance sheet increased by £2.6 billion. It is a demonstration of the Group's financial strength that less than half of this substantial increase was financed by higher borrowings.

In the light of these excellent results, the Board will be recommending a final dividend of 6.25p, making a total for the year of 10.3p, an increase of 25 per cent over the previous year.

PROSPECTS

The world's economy continues to emerge from the long recession but instability of exchange and interest rates continues. In the industrialised world and developing countries our businesses continue to progress in this more encouraging environment. I shall comment fully on the prospects for this year at the Annual General Meeting.

PATRICK SHEEHY, Chairman

GROUP RESULTS

Year ended 31 December 1984	1984 £ millions*	1983 £ millions	change
TURNOVER (including duty and excise taxes)			
Commercial activities	14,426	11,846	+22%
Financial services	1,077	—	—
Share of associated companies	2,700	1,993	+35%
Commercial activities' trading profit	1,148	851	+35%
Financial services' profit before taxation	125	—	—
Share of associated companies' profit before taxation	192	125	+54%
Operating profit	1,465	976	+50%
Net interest	(60)	3	—
PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION	1,405	979	+44%
Taxation on ordinary activities	(532)	(373)	+43%
Profit on ordinary activities after taxation	873	606	+44%
Attributable to minority shareholders	(89)	(59)	+51%
ATTRIBUTABLE TO B.A.T INDUSTRIES	784	547	+43%
Dividends	(151)	(120)	+25%
Earnings per share	53-552p	37-569p	+43%
DIVIDENDS PER SHARE	10-300p	8-250p	+25%

DIVIDENDS

The directors will be recommending to the shareholders at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 16 May 1985 the payment on 2 July 1985 of a final dividend for the year of 6.25p per ordinary share of 25p.

Transfers received in order by the Registrar of the Company up to 4 June 1985 will be in time to rank for payment of the final dividend.

The following is a summary of the dividends declared for the years to 31 December 1984 and 1983.

Interim paid 16.11.84

Final proposed payable 2.7.85

1984 1983

4-050p 3-375p

6-250p 4-875p

10-300p 8-250p

ANALYSES

Year ended 31 December	1984 £ millions*	%	1983 £ millions	%
INDUSTRIAL				
Turnover	6,943	48	6,138	52
Tobacco	4,511	31	3,528	30
Retailing	1,379	10	1,051	9
Paper	659	5	537	4
Packaging & printing	934	6	592	5
Other trading activities	—	—	—	—
Commercial activities	14,426	100	11,846	100
Profit				
Tobacco	698	48	542	56
Retailing	221	15	165	17
Paper	144	10	100	10
Packaging & printing	35	2	24	2
Other trading activities	50	3	30	3
Commercial activities	1,148	78	851	87
Financial services	125	9	—	—
Associated companies	192	13	125	13
Operating profit	1,465	100	976	100
GEOGRAPHICAL				
Turnover				
United Kingdom	2,346	16	2,167	18
Europe	3,085	21	2,367	20
North America	5,828	40	4,521	38
Latin America	1,721	12	1,601	14
Asia	939	7	725	6
Africa	411	3	398	3
Australasia	86	1	67	1
Commercial activities	14,426	100	11,846	100
Profit				
United Kingdom	106	7	80	8
Europe	109	7	65	7
North America	657	45	485	50
Latin America	138	10	113	11
Asia	83	6	61	6
Africa	49	3	41	4
Australasia	6	—	6	1
Commercial activities	1,148	78	851	87
Financial services	125	9	—	—
Associated companies	192	13	125	13
Operating profit	1,465	100	976	100

EXCHANGE RATE EFFECTS

The results of overseas subsidiaries have been translated into sterling for the purpose of this report at exchange rates ruling on 31 December in each year. Had the same exchange rates ruled at the end as at the beginning of the year, it is estimated that the figures would have been as follows:

Year to 31 December 1984	£ millions	% change
Turnover — commercial activities	12,600	+6
Trading profit — commercial activities	970	+14
Operating profit	1,255	+29
Profit before taxation	1,200	+23
Net profit attributable to B.A.T Industries	660	+21

*£1 Sterling = US\$ 1.16 (Dec 1984); US\$ 1.45 (Dec 1983).

INDUSTRIAL REVIEWS

TOBACCO

In sterling terms, turnover rose by 13 per cent, trading profit by 29 per cent. Brown & Williamson increased turnover by 6 per cent in dollars and trading profit by over 17 per cent, reflecting higher US cigarette prices and productivity. In West Germany, BATCF had 7 per cent volume growth, raised market share a point to 25 per cent, and strongly improved profitability. Brazilian cigarette profits were affected by price increases lower than inflation, but leaf exports grew and overall profit increased by 25 per cent in sterling.

Export volume and profit from the UK were substantially down, US export volumes continued depressed by the dollar's strength but profit was maintained, and BATCF's profitable West German export business increased volume and turnover.

Termination of direct sales and distribution in the UK eliminated losses. In Europe, only the Finnish market showed growth but most companies benefited from Barclay's continued good performance and,

except for Belgium, their trading profits improved.

Most Latin American countries improved turnover and trading profit, in Hong Kong profit rose significantly, and despite difficult economic conditions the African companies increased profits.

RETAILING

Turnover increased by 28 per cent, trading profit by 34 per cent in sterling terms. Price discounting and intensive promotional activity affected the US industry, and although BATUS Retail's sales grew by over 7 per cent, trading profit in dollars was down 10 per cent. Saks Fifth Avenue increased turnover but with lower profit, but Marshall Field and Kohl's Department Stores had a good year with turnover and trading profit up. Breuners' furnishing retail and rental stores increased turnover and profit significantly. Gimbels-Midwest's trading profit rose strongly, but it was down at Gimbels-Pittsburgh and Gimbels-East.

In the UK, Argos made substantial

gains in sales and trading profit, and increased its showrooms by 21 to 154. A new concept, Jewellers Guild, went into test with 15 stores. International Stores was sold to Dee Corporation as a growing and profitable business. The West German department store group, Horten, became a subsidiary in August and contributed £26 million trading profit.

PAPER

Turnover increased by 31 per cent and trading profit by 44 per cent in sterling terms. Appleton Papers had another record year, with dollar turnover up 23 per cent and trading profit 22 per cent, due mainly to higher sales volume and improved raw material-conversion and productivity. In the UK, capacity utilisation was at a five-year high, Wiggins Teape's sales rose 17 per cent, and exports rose by a third to £132 million.

UK profits doubled. The European carbonless copying paper business continued strong growth, the

merchants increased margins, and profit increased substantially.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

The overall profit of the insurance operations comprises the underwriting results on general business risks, life business profits and returns on the investment portfolio. Eagle Star has adopted a new accounting policy which recognises, in the investment returns, both income earned and investment performance comprising realised gains and the change in market value over the year of investments held at the year end. This investment performance is taken to profit by reference to a five-year moving average.

On this basis, in 1984 Eagle Star contributed £125 million to Group operating profit — including £95 million arising from the change in accounting policy — compared to a pre-tax surplus for 1983 of £140 million.

Grovewood Securities' profit is included separately in trading

profit from commercial activities. Without the change in accounting policy, the pre-tax surplus (excluding Grovewood) would have been £30 million, against £67 million.

General business premiums increased by 16 per cent to £665 million and the underwriting loss was £126 million. In the UK, premium income increased by 15 per cent but property, motor and liability account losses were also higher. Overseas premium income rose by 13 per cent, and life assurance premiums worldwide rose by 31 per cent to £412 million. In the UK, total new annual life premiums were down but new single premiums were up 46 per cent.

Turnover of Mardon Packaging International rose by 23 per cent, with trading profit up 46 per cent. There was some growth in the UK and Europe and volume and productivity gains gave higher profit.

In other trading activities, the West German home improvements operations were affected by lower

consumer confidence, turnover rose slightly but profit was down. Grovewood Securities, the investment holding company acquired with Eagle Star, made another record trading profit, up 21 per cent at £28 million. The Group's cosmetics interests, now sold, reported turnover up 12 per cent but trading profit 9 per cent down.

There was another strong increase in the Group's share of pre-tax profits of associated companies, up 54 per cent to £192 million. Imasco raised Canadian dollar pre-tax profit by 19 per cent. In Australia, AMATIL's profit was up 27 per cent in sterling terms. Pulp production at Aracruz Celulose, Brazil, was 6 per cent higher and profit increased significantly. Skandinavisk Holding's pre-tax profit increased by 45 per cent in sterling.

These figures for the year ended 31 December 1984 have been extracted from the full financial statements to be delivered to the Registrar of Companies, and carry an unqualified audit report. The Report and Accounts will be available on 24 April 1985. The Annual General Meeting will be held on 16 May 1985.

B.A.T INDUSTRIES

Windsor House, 50 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0NL

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Demand for gilts

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, March 25. Dealings End, April 12. Contango Day, April 15. Settlement Day, April 22.
 \$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

THE TIMES Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card.
 You must always have your card available when claiming.

No.	Company	Your gain or loss
	ELECTRICALS	
1	Sound Diffuson	
2	Pressac	
3	Pirasey	
4	VO Instruments	
5	Bowthorpe	
6	Dataser	
7	Electronic Mach	
8	Suter	
9	STC	
10	Racal Elect	
	INDUSTRIALS E-K	
11	Gesetener 'A'	
12	Hawker Siddeley	
13	Hanson	
14	Exel	
15	Edlow	
16	Hemair	
17	Hawley	
18	Jacksons Bourne	
19	Grievs	
20	Friedland Doggart	
	INDUSTRIALS A-D	
21	Derwent Stamping	
22	Alexandra W'wear	
23	Black Arrow	
24	Bunro Ind	
25	Applidure	
26	Cardo Eng	
27	Dyson (I & J)	
28	Burgess	
29	Bodycote	
30	Badlie	
	DRAPERY AND STORES	
31	MFI	
32	Br Home Stores	
33	Ward White	
34	Moss Bros	
35	Smith (W H) 'A'	
36	Harris Queenmwa	
37	Freemans	
38	Burton	
39	Woolworth	
40	Marks & Spencer	
Times Newspapers Limited Your Daily Total		

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £20,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	WEEKLY

1984/85 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

No.	Company	1984/85 High	1984/85 Low
1	Electronics	100.00	98.00
2	Sound Diffusion	100.00	98.00
3	Pressac	100.00	98.00
4	Playway	100.00	98.00
5	VO Instruments	100.00	98.00
6	Bowditch	100.00	98.00
7	Electronic Mach	100.00	98.00
8	Suez	100.00	98.00
9	STC	100.00	98.00
10	Racal Elect	100.00	98.00
11	Goldman's	100.00	98.00
12	Hawker Siddeley	100.00	98.00
13	Hanson	100.00	98.00
14	Kellogg	100.00	98.00
15	Hemur	100.00	98.00
16	Hawley	100.00	98.00
17	Jacksons Bourne	100.00	98.00
18	Greaves	100.00	98.00
19	Fredland Doggart	100.00	98.00
20	INDUSTRIALS A-D	100.00	98.00
21	Derwent Stamping	100.00	98.00
22	Alexandra W. wear	100.00	98.00
23	Black Arrow	100.00	98.00
24	Brown Ltd	100.00	98.00
25	Applique	100.00	98.00
26	Cando Eng	100.00	98.00
27	Dymally & J	100.00	98.00
28	Burgess	100.00	98.00
29	Bodley	100.00	98.00
30	Biddle	100.00	98.00
31	MFI	100.00	98.00
32	Br Home Stores	100.00	98.00
33	Ward White	100.00	98.00
34	Moss Bros	100.00	98.00
35	Smith (Walsby)	100.00	98.00
36	Harris Quenchery	100.00	98.00
37	Freemans	100.00	98.00
38	Burton	100.00	98.00
39	Woolworth	100.00	98.00
40	Marks & Spencer	100.00	98.00

1984/85 High Low Company Price Ch'ge % P/E

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

No.	Company	1984/85 High	1984/85 Low
1	Electronics	100.00	98.00
2	Sound Diffusion	100.00	98.00
3	Pressac	100.00	98.00
4	Playway	100.00	98.00
5	VO Instruments	100.00	98.00
6	Bowditch	100.00	98.00
7	Electronic Mach	100.00	98.00
8	Suez	100.00	98.00
9	STC	100.00	98.00
10	Racal Elect	100.00	98.00
11	Goldman's	100.00	98.00
12	Hawker Siddeley	100.00	98.00
13	Hanson	100.00	98.00
14	Kellogg	100.00	98.00
15	Hemur	100.00	98.00
16	Hawley	100.00	98.00
17	Jacksons Bourne	100.00	98.00
18	Greaves	100.00	98.00
19	Fredland Doggart	100.00	98.00
20	INDUSTRIALS A-D	100.00	98.00
21	Derwent Stamping	100.00	98.00
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25	Applique	100.00	98.00
26	Cando Eng	100.00	98.00
27	Dymally & J	100.00	98.00
28	Burgess	100.00	98.00
29	Bodley	100.00	98.00
30	Biddle	100.00	98.00
31	MFI	100.00	98.00
32	Br Home Stores	100.00	98.00
33	Ward White	100.00	98.00
34	Moss Bros	100.00	98.00
35	Smith (Walsby)	100.00	98.00
36	Harris Quenchery	100.00	98.00
37	Freemans	100.00	98.00
38	Burton	100.00	98.00
39	Woolworth	100.00	98.00
40	Marks & Spencer	100.00	98.00

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

No.	Company	1984/85 High	1984/85 Low
1	Electronics	100.00	98.00
2	Sound Diffusion	100.00	98.00
3	Pressac	100.00	98.00
4	Playway	100.00	98.00
5	VO Instruments	100.00	98.00
6	Bowditch	100.00	98.00
7	Electronic Mach	100.00	98.00
8	Suez	100.00	98.00
9	STC	100.00	98.00
10	Racal Elect	100.00	98.00
11	Goldman's	100.00	98.00
12	Hawker Siddeley	100.00	98.00
13	Hanson	100.00	98.00
14	Kellogg	100.00	98.00
15	Hemur	100.00	98.00
16	Hawley	100.00	98.00
17	Jacksons Bourne	100.00	98.00
18	Greaves	100.00	98.00
19	Fredland Doggart	100.00	98.00
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29	Bodley	100.00	98.00
30	Biddle	100.00	98.00
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32	Br Home Stores	100.00	98.00
33	Ward White	100.00	98.00
34	Moss Bros	100.00	98.00
35	Smith (Walsby)	100.00	98.00
36	Harris Quenchery	100.00	98.00
37	Freemans	100.00	98.00
38	Burton	100.00	98.00
39	Woolworth	100.00	98.00
40	Marks & Spencer	100.00	98.00

UNLISTED

No.	Company	1984/85 High	1984/85 Low
1	Electronics	100.00	98.00
2	Sound Diffusion	100.00	98.00
3	Pressac	100.00	98.00
4	Playway	100.00	98.00
5	VO Instruments	100.00	98.00
6	Bowditch	100.00	98.00
7	Electronic Mach	100.00	98.00
8	Suez	100.00	98.00
9	STC	100.00	98.00
10	Racal Elect	100.00	98.00
11	Goldman's	100.00	98.00
12	Hawker Siddeley	100.00	98.00
13	Hanson	100.00	98.00
14	Kellogg	100.00	98.00
15	Hemur	100.00	98.00
16	Hawley	100.00	98.00
17	Jacksons Bourne	100.00	98.00
18	Greaves	100.00	98.00
19	Fredland Doggart	100.00	98.00
20	INDUSTRIALS A-D	100.00	98.00
21	Derwent Stamping	100.00	98.00
22	Alexandra W. wear	100.00	98.00
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36	Harris Quenchery	100.00	98.00
37	Freemans	100.00	98.00
38	Burton	100.00	98.00
39	Woolworth	100.00	98.00
40	Marks & Spencer	100.00	98.00

91%	25%	Full	100%	2003-10	181%	+	10,500
122%	10%	Truss	125%	2003-10	181%	+	8,276
122%	10%	Truss	125%	2003-10	181%	+	8,916
91%	25%	Truss	125%	2003-10	181%	+	10,676
117%	20%	Truss	135%	2003-10	115%	+	11,061
122%	10%	Truss	125%	2003-10	181%	+	8,276
122%	10%	Truss	125%	2003-10	181%	+	8,916
122%	10%	Truss	125%	2003-10	181%	+	8,276
122%	10%	Truss	125%	2003-10	181%	+	10,611

UPDATED						
91%	25%	War Li	31%	30%	+	10,146
122%	10%	Concord	31%	30%	+	10,317
122%	10%	Concord	31%	30%	+	8,139
122%	10%	Concord	31%	30%	+	10,369
122%	10%	Concord	31%	30%	+	10,369
122%	10%	Concord	31%	30%	+	10,369
122%	10%	Concord	31%	30%	+	10,369
122%	10%	Concord	31%	30%	+	10,369

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Changing retail fortunes

City coup for Arabs

Storage as investment

Hunting Gate profits hit by shortage of sites

By Judith Huntley

Hunting Gate, the private housebuilding, construction and property development group founded by Mr Frederick Bandet, its president, is still looking for a new chief executive.

It has been doing so since 1983 when Mr Danny Desmond, a former managing director, left the company.

Mr Colin Smith, former chairman of Wimpey Property Holdings and the son of Sir Reginald Smith, former chairman of the George Wimpey group, is believed to have had discussions with Mr Bandet about the chief executive's job. But it appears the talks broke down after failure to agree terms.

Mr Smith recently left Wimpey Property Holdings after Mr Clifford Chetwood succeeded Sir Reginald as chairman of George Wimpey.

Mr Chetwood was said to be wielding a new broom at Wimpey, but it seems his approach was not appreciated by some of the senior people at the company, and Mr Smith is believed to have been among the dissenters.

Mr John Cowan, a non-executive director of Hunting Gate, would not comment further on the search for a chief executive, saying that it was a private matter. But it is understood that there is no other contender under consideration at present.

The company's accounts, just published, show that money owing to Mr Desmond on his departure after board disagreements has been paid. Last year £91,000 was put aside for this purpose.

Hunting Gate admits that its profits are "of modest proportions". Pretax profit for the year ended July, 1984, was £1.64 million (on turnovers of 47 million) compared with 1983's £761,000. But £270,000 has to be deducted from profits. The money has been paid to the fund which financed the company's 100,000 sq ft industrial scheme at Tottenham, North London (in rental guarantees resulting from the "demise" of its tenant).

The construction side suffered a bad first half but picked up in the second half. Even so, profits were small. About 50 per cent of its work comes from Hunting Gate's property development side with the remainder from design and building for outside clients. Turnover in 1984 was about £16 million.

Hunting Gate Homes saw disappointing results because of planning delays and the lack of enough sites on which to develop. The company is actively buying land, albeit at considerable but unspecified interest cost, so that 300 homes can be built and sold this year, but rising land prices are putting profit margins under pressure.

Hunting Gate is putting increasing emphasis on improving the quality of its investment portfolio, cash flow permitting. Properties built by its development arm go into the portfolio on a selective basis but some on the books may soon be weeded out. At the moment 25 per cent is retail, 25 per cent offices and the rest industrial space.

The portfolio has been valued at £12.13 million compared with the 1983 figure of £9.64 million. Some industrial property suffered a write down, but increases in the value of some

offices improved the overall figure.

Hunting Gate had its fingers burned with losses on the west coast of America. It was caught by a downturn in the market and by trying to undertake a development which was too big for it to handle. However, the company says it will consider the US again, but it will tread carefully before committing itself.

Hunting Gate is able to finance only small developments internally at the moment, with anything over about £4 million being pre-funded with institutions. This inevitably means that its stake in such projects will be small. Borrowings are now being re-financed with long-term money totalling £3 million - being provided by Barclays Merchant Bank, Citibank and County Bank.

In 1981 the group considered going public but this was rejected because of disagreements.

Mr Nigel Turnbull, the finance director, will not be drawn on the subject of a flotation other than to say it could not be ruled out and that the group is intent on building up a business of quality and depth before embarking on such a route.

Liverpool falls behind in shopping

Liverpool's West End is still Britain's premier shopping centre but Birmingham now outranks Glasgow and Edinburgh in size. New research by Hillier Parker and Newcastle University, sponsored by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and the Economic and Social Research Council, into the relative size of Britain's leading shopping centres shows the changing fortunes of these locations.

The largest decline in a metropolitan centre last year was at Liverpool, which fell from third position in 1971 to tenth. Nottingham on the other hand has risen from twelfth place to sixth. All six new large retail centres which had only district status 20 years ago are in the South East.

The survey enables shopping centres to be compared and ranked them according to the number of multiple branch stores they possess.

MEPC has forward funded its 60,000 sq ft high technology development at Bracknell, Berkshire, with the Rolls-Royce Pension Fund. The building, which has three blocks, is being developed by Orion Estates, the property trading arm of MEPC. The developer hopes for £9 a sq ft.

Trident Television has sold its head leasehold interest in the 27,500 sq ft Savoy Hill House, the Strand, in London's West End, to the Institution of Electrical Engineers for £2.9 million. The IEE, which has its headquarters on the rest of the site fronting the Embankment, will occupy part of Savoy Hill House in addition to its existing space and will sub-let part of the building on short-term leases.

Savoy Hill House has 94 years of a lease from the Duchy of Lancaster unexpired.

Moorgate deal

The Arab Banking Corporation of Bahrain has bought the freehold of No 1 Moorgate in the City, opposite the Bank of England, from Commercial Union Properties, confirming market rumours that the bank had paid a substantial amount for the offices. The price has not been disclosed but is believed to be between £41 million and £42 million. The building was sold by Hillier Parker on behalf of one of CU's long-term funds.

The Arab Banking Corporation

Clintons, will use the building as its London office. No 1 Moorgate, with 49,000 sq ft of air-conditioned space and banking accommodation, has been completely re-built behind three listed facades.

The agents would not comment on the yield achieved for CLIP but the market is putting it at 4 per cent with a rent equivalent to about £37 a sq ft. The deal underlines the strength of the City office market

Warehouse fashion

Speyhawk Land & Estates is close to signing up the Trustee Savings Bank to take the 28,000 sq ft of space in its refurbishment in the City at 60/61 Lombard Street and 18 Birch Lane. The scheme is being funded by the Scottish Equitable Assurance Society on the basis of £35 a sq ft rent but it is believed that a considerably higher figure could be paid.

No comment was forthcoming from Speyhawk.

Warehouse fashion

Retail warehousing, once scorned by the investing institutions, are now finding favour as yields fall 7.5 per cent and rents rise.

The latest survey on the subject by Richard Ellis, the estate agents, follows that by the rival firm, Jones Lang Wootton. Richard Ellis puts the emphasis on the retail aspects of such schemes, arguing that funds should assess investing in the same way they would look at

any retail investments.

The rapid growth in rents as more and more operators move out of town warehouse sites or cluster together in "parks" is making these developments attractive.

And the geared lease, highlighted by Jones Lang Wootton, means that premium rents are being paid over and above that for warehouses. J.L.W. says that the average retail warehouse rent was £4.27 a sq ft in 1984 compared with the average geared rent of £3.93 a sq ft

WELL COURT, EC4	GRACECHURCH STREET, EC3	CASTLE COURT, FURNIVAL ST., EC4	HANOVER HOUSE, HIGH HOLBORN, WC1	COMMONWEALTH HOUSE, NEW OXFORD ST., WC1	EAGLE HOUSE, JERMYN ST., SW1	REGENT STREET, W1
Superb self contained building - 770 sq. ft. Fully refurbished. New lease. Ref: MHS. TEL: 01-806 1455	Fully modernised office suite - 2359 sq. ft. Reduced rental terms. Ref: PC. TEL: 01-806 1455	A new prestige office development - 11,150 sq. ft. To let @ £13.45 p.s.f. Ref: JKH. TEL: 01-242 6333	Modernised office floors of 2,400 sq. ft. each. To let @ approx £13 p.s.f. Ref: RH. TEL: 01-242 0333	Entire 5/6, refurbished floor - 10,125 sq. ft. To let @ £12.34 per sq. ft. Ref: JKH/RH. TEL: 01-242 0333	Fully modernised office suite - 1180 sq. ft. Car parking available. Ref: RSP/RCM. TEL: 01-734 1384	Various small suites to let from 400 sq. ft. to 1,000 sq. ft. Ref: RCM. TEL: 01-734 1304

CENTRAL LONDON OFFICES

Eagle Star

SUMMARY OF GROUP RESULTS FOR 1984



Sir Denis Mount, Bt., Chairman.

The results for 1984 have been prepared on a new basis. We have, for the first time, included investments at market value in the shareholder's balance sheet and taken a conservative amount in respect of asset appreciation to the credit of the profit and loss account.

On the new basis the results were as follows:-

GENERAL BUSINESS. General business premium income increased by 18 per cent to £684.6m. Although strong competition for insurance business worldwide continues, market capacity has been reduced as a result of the very poor underwriting results experienced in recent years.

In accordance with our usual practice the table set out below analyses the income and underwriting results for each major territory including an estimate of the investment income applicable to the insurance business in each territory.

The figures shown include in the 1984 result an additional amount in respect of unexpired risks to cover the inadequacy of premiums written in 1984 which relate to exposure in 1985 and in particular the claims resulting from the severe weather in the early part of the year.

GENERAL BUSINESS INSURANCE RESULT

	Premium Income £m	Underwriting Result £m	Attributable Investment Income £m	1984 Total £m	1983 Total £m
United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland	489.8	(87.3)	69.4	(18.5)	16.9
Australia	51.1	(1.8)	6.2	4.6	2.1
Belgium	29.4	(7.0)	5.2	(1.9)	(2.3)
South Africa	60.1	4.0	4.0	4.0	8.2
USA	29.6	(12.6)	1.9	(10.7)	(6.9)
Other territories	24.8	(5.3)	2.8	(2.5)	(1.2)
Change in provision for unexpired risks - overseas business	-	(2.0)	-	(2.0)	1.0
	684.6	(116.4)	89.5	(25.9)	18.8

* including reinsurance and worldwide marine and aviation.

In the United Kingdom there was an increase of 15 per cent in premium income, the underwriting loss was £70.3m (1983: £32.3m). Commercial fire and liability business made an underwriting loss of £5.8m and £18.7m (1983: £5.8m, £7.3m) respectively, the latter account suffering from an unusually high number of large public liability claims and an increasing number of claims relating to industrial deafness. The All-in account showed a loss of £18.8m (1983: £12.5m) the results being severely affected by the extreme winter weather in the early months of 1984 and 1985 and by the continuing problem of subsidence. The motor account made a loss of £18.4m (1983: £1.8m) reflecting increased claims frequency. The loss on the accident account was £4.2m (1983: £2.4m) again reflecting the high cost of running this business and the loss on travel business of £3.9m (1983: £1.8m) arose from deteriorating claims experience.

The results for London market business showed an overall loss of £11.2m (1983: £6.6m) and this result arises mainly from deteriorating trends in claims relating to earlier years. Industrial disease claims are still causing concern and claims provisions in respect of contracts written mainly before 1965 have been further strengthened by £10m.

The worldwide marine and aviation account resulted in a transfer from profit and loss account of £3.0m (1983: £2.5m) which mainly arose from the particularly poor results experienced by our subsidiaries in the United States and France.

The overseas results were dominated by the underwriting loss of £12.6m in the United States which was exacerbated by the strength of the dollar. The results in Australia again show an improvement, but there was a deterioration in South Africa. Premium income increased by 13 per cent in both sterling and underlying currency terms.

LIFE ASSURANCE BUSINESS. Worldwide premium income increased by 31 per cent to £412m, and the shareholder's life profits were £22.2m (1983: £20.5m), an increase of 8.3 per cent. The reduction in the rate of corporation tax has had the effect of reducing the 'grossed up' value of life profits and had it not been for this change the increase would have been 15 per cent.

In the United Kingdom total new annual premiums showed a reduction in 1984 which is accounted for by the non-recurring benefit from the MIRAS switching which took place in 1983 and the abolition of life assurance premium relief during 1984. New business showed a healthy increase over 1982, the last comparable year, despite the loss of LAPR Mortgage endowment business and individual pension business were the most buoyant sectors.

New single premiums showed an increase of 46 per cent, the main contributor to this growth being immediate annuities.

Overseas business developed strongly with increases in new business in our most significant territories, Australia, Ireland and France, of 33 per cent and 147 per cent for annual and single premium business respectively.

GROVEWOOD SECURITIES. 1984 was the seventeenth successive year of increased profits for Grovewood Securities, the earnings being £28.2m, an improvement of 21 per cent over 1983. This represents another remarkable achievement for this group under the chairmanship of Mr John Danny.

Investment appreciation is the appreciation in the shareholder's funds of stock exchange investments, property and mortgages in the year. It includes profits and losses on investments sold and the movement in market value of investments held throughout the year and is stated after off-setting exchange differences on currency liabilities and matching currency investments. Credit is taken in the profit and loss account for one fifth of this appreciation and of the appreciation in the previous four years. Balances not credited to profit and loss account are carried forward as deferred investment gains.

The profits for 1984 would have been £58.3m (1983: £90.3m) if presented using the accounting policies adopted during 1983.

The industry-wide losses now emerging are the inevitable result of the rate cutting war that has taken place over recent years which has produced premiums which were totally inadequate to compensate the deterioration in claims experience in all classes of business. These losses have been exacerbated by the weather catastrophes suffered in many areas of our operations.

At the end of 1984 the free reserves of the group, excluding the value of the shareholder's equity in the life funds, amounted to 112 per cent of general business premium income. This compares with 116 per cent at the end of 1983 and provides a substantial margin of free reserves over and above the provision for liabilities.

INVESTMENT INCOME. The total group investment income, (excluding capital appreciation), on shareholder's funds amounted to £127.4m (1983: £109.9m), an increase of 15.9 per cent. These figures do not include the earnings of Grovewood Securities.

Currency appreciation during 1984, particularly the strengthening of the US dollar, accounted for approximately £22m of the investment income. Adjusting for this factor the underlying rate of growth would be 13.9 per cent, which we regard as an exceptionally satisfactory performance achieved in difficult circumstances.

The above is a summary of the results for the year. The full report and accounts which contains an unqualified auditors' report will be published on 22nd April 1985 and delivered to the Registrar of Companies within the prescribed period.

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Britannic Assurance PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY

RESULTS FOR 1984

	1984 £000	1983 £000
Life Branches		
Total Premium Income	122,991	112,910
Total Surplus for Policyholders	66,363	55,173
General Branch		
Total Premium Income	16,321	14,785
Underwriting (Loss)	(3,099)	(1,952)
Investment Income	1,824	1,812
Profit (Loss) after Tax	(838)	(58)
Transfer from Claims Equalisation Reserve	235	-
Profit and Loss Account		
Transfer from life branches	5,435	4,516
Transfer (to) from general branch	(603)	(58)
Total Surplus for the year, including other net income	5,469	4,600
Net Dividend for the year for stockholders	25.5p	21.8p

BONUS DECLARATION FOR POLICYHOLDERS

Ordinary Branch Reversionary Bonuses		Industrial Branch Reversionary Bonuses	
Ordinary Policies	Annuities	A scale from £4.40% to £6.00% (1983 - £4.30%) of sum assured	PLUS special reversionary bonus and increased scale of terminal bonuses
A scale from £5.50% to £7.50% (1983 - £5.50%) of sum assured	A scale from £6.65% to £8.65% (1983 - £6.65%) of annuity		
PLUS increased scale of terminal bonuses			

Britannic Assurance Covers the Country

Football: Sir Alf Ramsey's help to be sought as England prepare for World Cup acclimatization

Wolves forced to ask for third PFA loan in a year

Wolverhampton Wanderers had not finished paying off their last loan from the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) before going back for £15,000 earlier this week. Since last week they have been unable to pay their players.

With gates slumping alarmingly, they have now been loaned enough to cover four weeks' wages. This is their third PFA loan in 12 months.

The loan can only be used to pay the club's players. It had to be approved by the Football League because it is to be repaid, direct to the PFA, by the League using levies due to the club from such sources as television and pools revenue.

Benda, the PFA assistant secretary, said yesterday: "Wolves have not seen any levy money since last November because they have not yet finished paying off the loan we made to them then, but that's by the by. It is the third loan in a year and while we are not saying we would not help them again, our management committee are unlikely to let us keep giving Wolves loans all the time."

Batson criticized the club's backers, whom he said "ought to work out whether they want a club or not and I've no doubt the supporters feel the same way." It seems apparent the backers are not prepared to put their hands in their pockets at the moment or the club would not keep having to come to us for money," Gordon Taylor, the

PFA secretary, has warned that the situation "cannot go on".

Wolves, whose last home League game was their lowest for 59 years, look doomed to the Third Division on present form. They were beaten 4-1 by their relegation rivals, Notts County, on Saturday - scoring their first goal in 717 minutes in the process. They have not won a League match since November 24 when they beat Fulham 2-1.

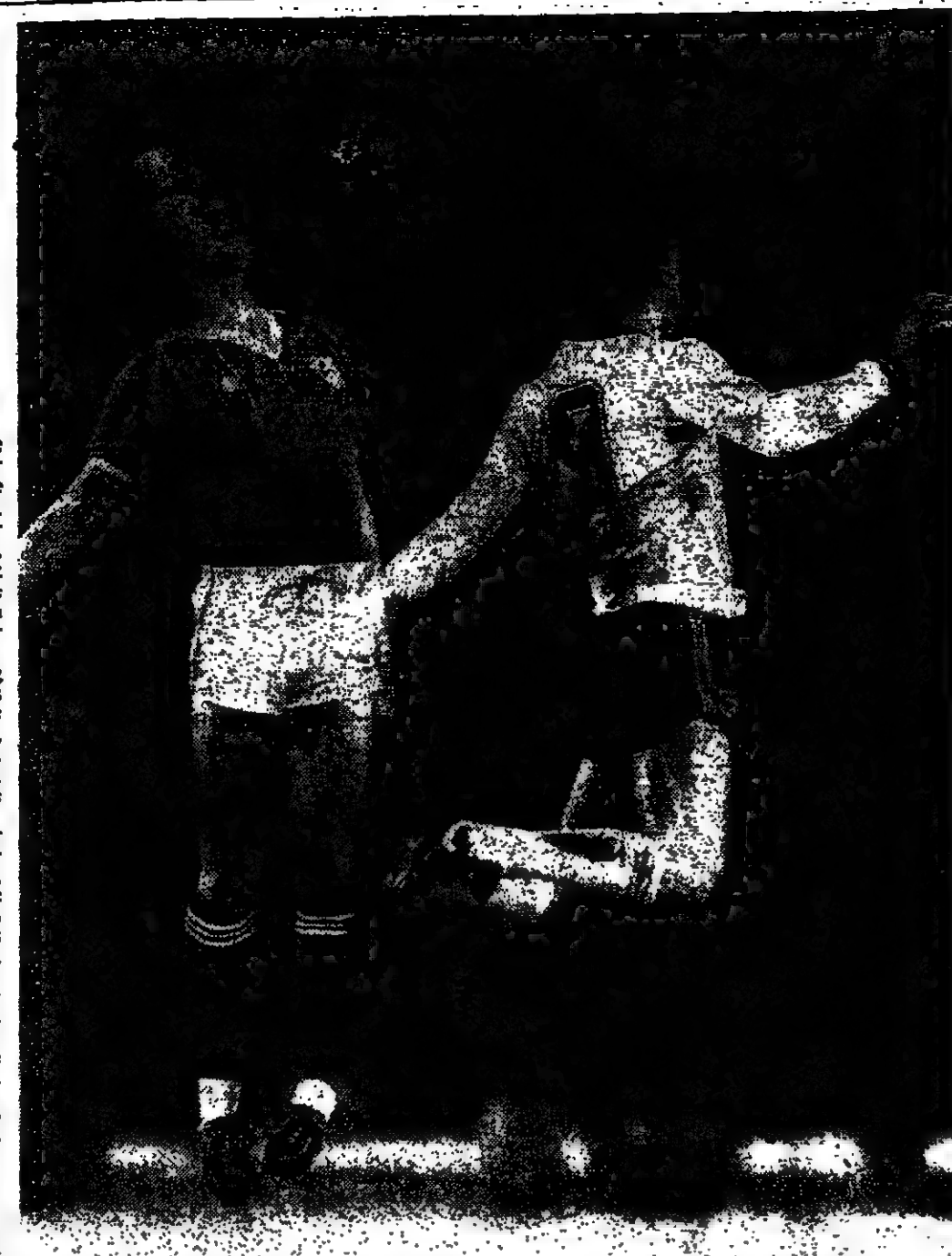
They are believed to be losing £10,000 a week and their debts are steadily rising. They owe money to the Inland Revenue, Customs and Excise, and £25,000 to the West Midlands County Council for police duties at the ground.

Players' bonuses and other unpaid loans could take their debts over £150,000. However, Wolves' chief executive, Eric Woodward, said that money is being transferred to the club's account by its owners, Allied Properties.

Woodward said yesterday: "There was a need for urgent money and I am grateful the PFA have helped us out. The owners have advised me that funding for the club is on the way, but there is a delay because of the practicalities of transferring it."

Barnett returns

Garry Barnett, the Oxford United forward, has returned to Manor Road after a second period on loan to Fulham. Fulham, who want him for another month but United's manager, Jim Smith, refused.



Hateley (right), one of England's blossoming players, puts Lawrenson, of the Republic of Ireland, under pressure during Tuesday's match at Wembley (Photograph: Chris Cole)

Millwall win to stay on course

Millwall kept up their drive for promotion from division three with a 2-1 win at Swansea City on Tuesday night, which pushed the Welsh side into even deeper relegation trouble. John Fashanu and Kevin Brown scored Millwall's goals as they moved above Hull City into second place in the table.

Preston, battling against relegation, picked up a 2-1 win at Doncaster Rovers to end a run of 14 successive away league defeats. Barley, also struggling pulled back from 2-0 down to gain a precious point in a 2-2 draw at Plymouth Argyle. Rotherham, without a win in seven games, beat Reading 3-0, to end the visitors' run of nine matches without defeat.

In the fourth division, Bury regained the leadership thanks to two goals by their leading scorer, Craig Madden, in a 2-1 win over Stockport County. Blackpool and Colchester United, both chasing promotion, drew 1-1 while Exeter City snatched a 3-2 win at Halifax Town.

In the freight Rover trophy, second round, Lincoln City beat Darlington 3-1 but both sides continue in the competition. Lincoln looked to third round trip to York City and Darlington, who also qualify as the highest scoring losers, will visit Bolton Wanderers.

Meeting today on Luton riot

Exactly a week after handing their report to the FA Cup visitors, Football Association's own disciplinary commission meet at Luton today to sit in judgement on crowd violence.

They are to consider whether Luton Town or the FA Cup visitors, Millwall, were to blame for the violence at Kenilworth Road a fortnight ago which appalled millions of television viewers and led to the personal intervention of the Prime Minister. As at the recent hearing over the Chelsea-Sunderland match violence, the commission will confine themselves to the adequacy of precautions taken by both clubs to prevent trouble by supporters. Luton's charge extends to all safety

Meeting today on Luton riot

and security aspects and the commission are expected to be particularly interested in the extent of pre-match liaison between the two clubs and the police.

Bedfordshire Police also will give evidence, though the FA have no power to act should they feel there was inadequate policing. How much the commission will concern themselves with the events outside the ground before and after the match - trains were wrecked and thousands of pounds worth of damage inflicted on houses and shops in the area remains to be seen. The clubs could be questioned about their arrangements in this area.

Glen Kirton, FA spokesman,

Droy fills a vacancy at Palace

Mickey Droy has joined Crystal Palace after 14 years with Chelsea. The 33-year-old 6ft 4in defender played more than 270 League games for Chelsea but has made only one senior appearance in the last two years. Earlier this season he had a spell on loan to Luton.

Droy, who joined Palace on a free transfer, was the last playing link at Stamford Bridge with the Chelsea team of the 1970s which won the FA Cup, the European Cup Winners' Cup and were beaten finalists in the League Cup. He was expected to move to Portsmouth before Christmas but should now make his debut at the Palace against Sheffield United on Saturday.

"He is a big man and we want him to do a big job for us," Steve Coppell, the Crystal Palace manager, said. "He can dominate in the defence and his experience should prove invaluable in the hectic final weeks of the season."

Derby County have agreed to pay £400,000 to Crystal Palace for the Bristol Rovers midfielder player. The Welsh under-21 international, who was in the Rovers' side which drew at Derby on Saturday, travelled back to the Baseball Club yesterday to complete the loan.

Dave Bamber, the Portsmouth centre-forward has rejected a £20,000 transfer to Oxford. Wanderers. He has only been at Fratton Park for four months.

Character is Robson aim for Mexico

By David Miller

Bobby Robson, England's manager, acknowledges that if any international players are involved in the finals of next season's European club competitions, or the FA Cup final, they may arrive in Mexico for the World Cup finals - assuming England qualify - too late to acclimatise and be ready for the opening match.

It is the manager's intention to depart the day after the end of the football League season on May 3. "We will, as it is, get less than the four weeks, which physiologists say is the minimum time in which to adjust to altitude," Robson said. "Qualifying to heat can take only a few days, but altitude needs a month. The absolute fitness of the players will be fundamental to their ability to cope with the problem."

The World Cup finals begin on May 31. It would be possible for the majority of the squad to leave even before the end of the League programme, with the consent of their clubs if not involved in decisive fixtures.

"We need every day," says Robson, who hopes that this summer's three-match visit to Mexico City will help to establish the right way to play. "Slow, possession football with short bursts in high-activity areas will be essential. We hope this year to find out what the problems are during tight games, and to come back and solve them."

He will be discussing with Sir Alf Ramsey aspects of play in 1970, when England lost in the quarter-final round in temperatures approaching 100°F, though arguably and controversially for quite unrelated reasons. Robson is as much concerned with the character as the skill of his squad, remembering, as a player himself, the murk which undermined Walter Winterbottom's team in Chile in 1962.

"I have told the squad they must accept that they will be away from home for five weeks this summer, and to let me know if they are not prepared to face it. This year's tour should help to show me if that type of player is there."

"We want some good outside right, the stick together, and we'll find out this time. I don't know how the cricketers manage such extended tours. But what I do know is that when Brazil won in 1970 they had over three months together in preparation."

It is not necessarily true that every professional can withstand the superhuman problems of enforced periods away from home. Paul Maddy in 1970 preferred to be left out of Ramsey's squad, and Colin Todd, another of England's potentially outstanding defenders, was a poor traveller, as was the inimitable Greaves in his early days.

One improvement in a manager's scope for maintaining morale is that in 1986 all 11 reserves will be allowed on the substitutes' bench instead of only five, with any two permitted to play. Banning six to the grandstand has always created difficulties. It now means, for example, that Kennedy, the reserve to Sanson at left back, who would never be included among five substitutes because he plays in only one position, can now be on the bench to be available should Sanson be injured.

Colchester loan

Colchester United who have lost trouble scoring goals since losing their forward, Tony Adcock, with cartilage trouble last month, have signed the Gillingham forward, Paul Shimmers, on a month's loan.

Eamonn Donlan, a youth international, with the Republic of Ireland, has signed as a full professional for West Ham United.

England's manager turns injuries to his advantage

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

England are looking at Romania for their next target, through twin sights. As they aim for a victory in Bucharest on May 1, they can see the World Cup finals with one eye and a record that has stood for five years with the other. They have not won six internationals in a row since 1980.

The fourth in the list of their victims then was the republic of Ireland and, apart from Keegan's two decisive goals, the night was notable for the debut of Bryan Robson. As he led England to their fifth successive triumph, against the same opponents on Wednesday night, the introduction of other new players was equally memorable.

Bobby Robson has again discovered that injuries, which severely disrupted his early career as the national manager, can be beneficial if his three most experienced and ageing forwards in Francis, Woodcock, and Mariner had been regularly available, he might not have been so tempted to usher in a fresh and youthful attack over the last 10 months.

Hatfield burst to unforeseen prominence at the age of 22 during the South American tour and now three more youngsters have stepped into contention. Stevens, aged 21, Waddle and Linaker, both 24, have already shown enough promise to deserve a place in the squad that will visit Mexico and the United States this summer.

As well as claiming his first goal in his second appearance, Stevens has fitted into the midfield jigsaw that is built around Wilkins and Bryan Robson. Only he and the as yet uncapped Allen, of West Ham United, are expected to complete the squad's defensive duties with the ability to operate as a right winger.

Doubt over Hughton

Tottenham may be without their full back, Chris Hughton, against Aston Villa on Saturday because of an injury sustained in a tackle with his club colleague Glenn Hoddle during Tuesday night's England v Republic of Ireland international match at Wembley. Hughton was left limping with a knee injury after Hoddle, who came on as a substitute, launched himself into a two-footed challenge which earned a lecture from the Scottish referee, George Smith.

The Ireland manager, Eoin Hand, said: "Glenn caught Chris with a nasty one on the right knee. I don't think he will be fit for Saturday but he will be fit for Sunday. I have already used my three substitutes."

Tottenham, who are in the hunt for the League title, had to rely on Tony Galvin out of their team for several matches earlier this season when he was injured playing for the Republic of Ireland.



Hughton: knee injury may rule him out

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES England 2, Republic of Ireland 1.	FRENCH LEAGUE 1st Division: 1. Rouen 1, Nantes 0; 2. Paris 1, Nîmes 0; 3. Monaco 1, Toulouse 0; 4. Bordeaux 1, Lens 1; 5. Lille 1, Lens 1; 6. Marseille 3, Tours 2.
SECOND DIVISION Portsmouth 1, Preston 0; 2. Plymouth 1, Burnley 1; 3. Rotherham 1, Lincoln 0.	CENTRAL LEAGUE 1st Division: Bradford City 1, Shrewsbury 0; 2. Derby 1, Huddersfield 0; 3. Luton 1, Mansfield 0; 4. Blackpool 1, Notts County 1; 5. Manchester United 2, Second Division.
THIRD DIVISION Doncaster Rovers 1, Preston 0; 2. Plymouth 1, Burnley 1; 3. Rotherham 1, Lincoln 0.	FOOTBALL COMMISSIONERS' CRYSTAL PALACE 1. Palace 1, Portsmouth 0; 2. Luton 1, West Ham 0; 3. Queens Park Rangers 1, Arsenal 1; 4. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
FOURTH DIVISION Blackpool 1, Colchester United 1; 2. Stockport County 1, Halifax Town 2; 3. Exeter City 1, Exeter City 1.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 1st Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
FIFTH DIVISION Second round: 1. Lincoln City 1, Lincoln City 1; 2. Lincoln City 1, Lincoln City 1.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 2nd Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
SIXTH DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 3rd Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
SEVENTH DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 4th Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
EIGHTH DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 5th Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
NINTH DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 6th Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
TENTH DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 7th Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
ELEVENTH DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 8th Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
TWELFTH DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 9th Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
THIRTEENTH DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 10th Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
FOURTEENTH DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 11th Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
FIFTEENTH DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 12th Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
SIXTEENTH DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 13th Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
SEVENTEENTH DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 14th Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
EIGHTEENTH DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 15th Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
NINETEENTH DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 16th Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
TWENTIETH DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 17th Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
21ST DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 18th Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
22ND DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 19th Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
23RD DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 20th Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
24TH DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 21st Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
25TH DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 22nd Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
26TH DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 23rd Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
27TH DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 24th Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
28TH DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 25th Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
29TH DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 26th Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
30TH DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 27th Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
31ST DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 28th Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
32ND DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 29th Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
33RD DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 30th Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
34TH DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 31st Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
35TH DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 32nd Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
36TH DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 33rd Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
37TH DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 34th Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
38TH DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 35th Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
39TH DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 36th Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
40TH DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 37th Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
41ST DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 38th Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
42ND DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 39th Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
43RD DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 40th Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
44TH DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 41st Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
45TH DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 42nd Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
46TH DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 43rd Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
47TH DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 44th Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
48TH DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 45th Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
49TH DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 46th Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
50TH DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 47th Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
51ST DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 48th Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
52ND DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 49th Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
53RD DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 50th Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
54TH DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 51st Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
55TH DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 52nd Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
56TH DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 53rd Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
57TH DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 54th Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
58TH DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 55th Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
59TH DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 56th Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
60TH DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 57th Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
61ST DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 58th Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
62ND DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 59th Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
63RD DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 60th Division: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.
64TH DIVISION 1st Round: 1. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 2. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0; 3. Tottenham 1, Tottenham 0.	OLYMPIC LEAGUE 61

manager
injuries
advantage
ball Correspondent

McGuigan secures £1.7m world title bout with Pedroza in London

By Srikumar Sen, Boxing Correspondent

Barry McGuigan appears finally to have collared Eusebio Pedroza, the World Boxing Association champion, McGuigan's manager B. J. Eastwood, announced yesterday in London after talks going into the early hours of Wednesday morning. He had managed to iron out details and that the champion had agreed to meet McGuigan in London before July 10.

The sticking points of Pedroza insisting that if McGuigan won he would have to defend against Bernard Taylor in Tennessee for £40,000 and then, if victorious again, have to face Pedroza in his home town of Panama City, are believed to have been bought out by the Eastwood Organisation for £240,000. McGuigan is now a "free man" and can negotiate future defences with being tied down by options.

As a result of the extra expenditure to induce the world champion to box McGuigan the championship could be the most expensive to be staged in Britain, topping £1.7 million.

McGuigan said: "This is the news I have waited for since the age of 12 when I started boxing. It has been a long and difficult time for my manager and he has pulled it off and I hope now that I can pull it off."

McGuigan can expect a tougher fight than the one he had against Eusebio Pedroza on Tuesday. It was a mismatch that he had to go through with or be stripped of his European title. Once McGuigan had dropped Gal-

loutze in the second round and started opening up, Gallouze's corner pulled their man out.

What a fiasco! But most disgusted of all were the British Boxing Board of Control who should be laid at the door of the French Federation and the EBU.

Clarke said that after protests in 1981 by the board about sub-standard challengers for Charlie Magri, the EBU had promised to look carefully at single nominations particularly but clearly had lapsed into their bad old ways.

"It was a bad night for European boxing," Clarke said. "Gallouze looked like a 'gone' fighter. He couldn't even take a straight left. I wouldn't even let him fight Clyde Ruan or Jim McDonnell. If it had not been a title fight we would have stopped him boxing."

The board do not intend to be in the position of helpless watchers again, Clarke said that he would make a report to the board, who would write to the French Federation and the EBU in the strongest terms.

Lucien Rodriguez, another Frenchman, was even worse against Frank Bruno. Rodriguez, a former European champion, should have known better than to first try and put as great a distance as possible between him and the advancing Bruno and then to be trapped in his corner and finished off with a right in the first round.

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Philip Parkin and Jenny Pool in consultation yesterday, when they lost to Sam Torrance and John O'Leary (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

Hacker with a Huck Finn look

From Mitchell Platts, Ponte Vedra, Florida

Tom Watson gave a message of hope to millions of golfing "hackers" by insisting here on the eve of the Tournament Players' Championship that "at times, I feel like a 25 handicap." Coming from a player who has won more than 40 tournaments, including five British Opens, two US Masters and one US Open, it was a clear indication that Watson is far from satisfied with his current form.

Not that his rivals, including Nick Faldo, Ken Brown, Sandy Lyle, Bernhard Langer and the defending champion, Fred Couples, will be underestimating the Watson challenge when he tees off with Severiano Ballesteros and Fuzzy Zoeller early this morning. They believe that Watson, in spite of the "Huckberry" Finn look, has reached the time in his career when, like Jack Nicklaus before him, he can raise his game according to the importance of the tournament.

Watson is not alone in regarding this event as the most likely to be recognised as the fifth major championship if the grand slam challenge of British Open, US Masters, US Open and US PGA Championship was to be extended. So he is chasing a title that he views as being valuable while he has yet to win. Moreover, the Players' Club course offers the kind of intriguing challenge that should inspire Watson to produce his best form.

Even so, he admits: "My form is fluctuating—unlike four or five years ago when I always felt on top. Where once I would hit a bad shot, then find a way to get up and down and save my par, I now find myself getting increasingly depressed if I'm in trouble. I'm not as consistent now, and I'm certainly more hesitant and the bad shots bother me so much that at times I feel like a 25-handicapper."

Meanwhile Lyle, like Watson, is urgently seeking to correct a destructive swing. He hopes that he will be assisted by the arrival of a "new" driver from home and he has reverted to using the overlapping grip rather than the interlocking version to which he switched last year when he won three times in two months.

Ballesteros, for whom his brother, Manuel, is caddy, is clearly in good spirits following his success in the USF and O'Chicadee two weeks ago. Curtis Strange, Lanny Wadkins and Mark O'Meara, who have each won twice this year, are also brimming with confidence.

The Sunningdale foursome came nicely to the boil yesterday. The 16 survivors included the favourites, Sam Torrance and John O'Leary, and two probable Curtis Cup players of the future, Patricia Johnson and Nicola McCormack.

Torrance and O'Leary carried too many guns for Philip Parkin, a fellow-professional, and won by four and two in spite of conceding four strokes. An eagle two on the vulnerable 24th hole, where Torrance left his partner with only a further yard and a half to negotiate, carried the men to four up. O'Leary sacrificed the 10th and 12th, once in sand and once in heather, but testing putts escaped Parkin on the 15th and 16th, and that was that.

The holders are a formidable combination, with the cushion of 10 strokes on handicap, and they have now stretched their Sunningdale record to 20 victories against one defeat. They beat two Middlesex professionals, Neil Wichlow and Paul Glazier, by two and one. Miss McKenna conceded the ninth when, in a moment of wandering concentration, she picked up her ball to replace it. Otherwise she was a model of golfing excellence, and her drive on the 17th, 15 yards beyond Colm Bumpus, a Fleetwood professional, to set up an improbable victory for the women with a birdie four, without a stroke, to a five.

Miss Davies' hackles were up after her opponents, as she believed, allowed her to play out of turn at the 17th. She opened her mighty shoulders at the 18th and drove 20 yards beyond Colm Bumpus, a Fleetwood professional, to set up an improbable victory for the women with a birdie four, without a stroke, to a five.

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